



The castell of

loue, translated out of Span-
nishe in to Englyshe, by Johan
Bowchier knyght, lordc Ber-
nis, at the instaunce of the lady
Elizabeth Carew, late wyfe to
sy^r Nicholas Carew knyght.

The whiche boke treateth
of the loue betwene
Acriano and
Laureola
Doughter to the kynge of
Macedonia.

Cum priuilegio ad impri-
mendum solum.



THE LANCET

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The Prologe.



Of the affeccyant desyre
and obligacyon that I
ame bownde in, towar-
des your ryghte vertu-
ous and good lady: as
well for the goodnes that
it hath pleased you to shewe me, as for
the nyzenesse of consanguinite, hath
pleased me to accomplyshe your desyre,
as in translatyng this present boke.
And though my so doyng, can not be
correspondente any thyng to recom-
pence your goodnes. yet not beyng
ignozante of your wyll and desyre, the
whiche in this cause I take for the hole
effecte: thynkyng thereby to do you
some smale rememoracyon. And also
bycause the matter is very pleasante for
younge ladies and gentle women. Ther-
fore I haue enterprysed to translate the
same out of Spanyshe in to Englyshe,

A.ii. nos

not adozned with so freshe eloquence,
that it shulde merite to be presented to
your goodnesse. For oꝛ I fyrste entred
in to this rude labour I was brought
into greate doubtfulnesse, and founde
my selfe in dyuers ymagynacions. For
seyng the quicke intellygence of your
spyt, I feared: and agayne the remem-
braunce of your vertue and prudence,
gaue me audacyte. In the one I found
feare, and in the other suertie and har-
dynesse. Fynally I dyd chose the moſte
vnuaylable, for myne owne shame, and
moſt vtilitie in any reprehencion oꝛ re-
buke for the moche boldenesse, in that
I haue not taken ſuche reſpyte as I
oughte to haue done. yet in conſydera-
cion of your gentlenesse, myne affeccon
is alwayes in truſte to ſhape blameles.
I haue taken this entrepryce on me,
more be deſyre to haue blame thereby,
then to attayne by my prayſe oꝛ laude.
wherefore ryghte vertuous lady, maye
it

it please you of your goodnes to accept
this lytle presente treatyse, and to re-
ceyue this my good wyll, oz ye con-
dempne the faulte. And also to haue the
more affectyon to the presenter, then to
the valewer of the thyng presented:
requyringe you to holde and repute
me alwayes as one of the nom-
ber of them, that alwayes shal
be redy to do you pleasure.

And for the surplus, I

Desyre the creatour

of the fyrst cause

long to indure

and to en-

crease

your

happy prosperite.

Amen,

The ende of the prologe.



After þ warres Done
and fynyshyd in my
countrey, beyng in
my pooze mansion,
in a mornynge whan
the sonne illumynyd
the earthe, in a sha-
dowde darke valey, in the moun-
tayne called Serua de Maren, in the
cōutrey of Masedonia: as I walkyd in
a strayte way shadowd w fayer trees
Sodenly I mette with a knight fyers
and furious, whose presence was fer-
full to regarde. Coueryde all in here
lyke a sauage creature. In his lyfte
hande he bare a bryght schilde of stele,
& in his ryght hand a thynnyng ymage
entailid in a clere stone, of such plesure
& bewtte, that þ clerenes troublid the
syghte of myne eyen, out of the whiche
there issuyde dyuers Rayes of fier en-
briansing & enflaming þ body of a man.
The which the sayd knight forceably

ledde behynd hym, who with dolorous
playntes and sorowfull passions sayde:
By reason of my hope, I suffre all this,
and when he apzochyd, and that I was
nere hym, he sayd with mortall anguysh
frende, for the loue of god I pray the
folow me and ayde me in this my great
besynes, and I as then had more cause
of feare, then reason to aunswere, but
I set myne eye on this strange vision,
iudgng in my hart dyuerse considera-
cions, as to leue my way, me thought it
symplemes, and to accomplysh the desire
of the pacient, I thought it dangerous
to folow hym was perell, and to leue
hym in that turbacion was pite, so that
I wiste not whiche was beste to chose,
how be it after that feare had left myne
alteracion in some ease, and that my spi-
rites began to respyre, then I cōsideryd
well that I was more bounde to the ver-
tue, then to the lyfe. And then determy-
nyde for the dought that I was in, to
folow þe way of hym who despyed myne

ayede, and I hastye me to go after in
suche sorte that shortly I ouertoke
them. So we went all.iii.a longe space,
with no lesse anoyance, then to be soly-
tary alone fro pleasur or company, and
though the desyre of the dolorous, was
cause of my folowynge, yet to speke to
hym that ledde the pacient, I saylyde
audacpte, and to desite hym, me thought
nothyng auayleable, nor I hadde not
deseruyd it, though in this case I sayled
counsayll, yet after I had reuoluyde my
thoughtes in the remembrance of many
thynges, I thought it beste to put to
hym some maner of purpose, to thentent
that accorpyng to his aunswere I shuld
determyne further. And with this dely-
beracion I requyede hym in the moste
curtes wyse that to me was possible, to
shew me what he was: who aunswered
me, & sayd: frende, certaynly accorpyng
to my naturall condycion, I oughte to
gyue the none aunswere: bycause myne
offyce is rather to assure euill, then to

answere well: how be it in that I haue
bene alwayes nourished among men of
good nourture: I shall vse to the of
the gentylnes, that I haue lernyd, and
not of the fiercenes of my nature. Thou
shalt vnderstand sence thou wilt know
it, that I am principall officer in the
house of the god of loue: and I am
namyd by my ryght name, desire. And
with the force of this chyldre/ I resyst &
defende all hoopes: And with the beautie
of this Image I cause & affections
wherw I byrole and enflame the lyues
as thou maist se by this prisoner whom
I lede in to the prisone of loue: who all
onely by dethe hopeth his delyuerance.
Whan this tormentour hadde shewed
me all these thynges, we mountyd vp a
sharpe & an hygh mountayne, that fur-
ther to trauaylle, my force fayled, and
with greate payne, we aryuyd to the
hegght. In receyuyng this aunswer,
then I studyed, how to thanke hym of
the grace that he hadde shewed me: and

ther w^{ch} sodenly he banys^{hed} fro my pre-
sence. This was in the begynnynge of
the night, wherfore I coude not kepe
my waye, noz knowe whether I shulde
drawe, for the darkenes of the nighte, &
the small knowledg that I had of the
countrey. Howbeit I thought it best not
to retorne, noz to departe fro the palce,
that I was in. Then I began to curse
myne aduenture, abandonyng my selfe
fro all hope, abiding there my p^rdictio.
Thus in y^e myddes of my tribulacyon,
I neuer repentyd of that I had done,
for I estemyd better to lese my lyfe, ac-
complyshynge vertue: then to saue it,
doing the contrary. Thus I was all y^e
nyght in heuynes and trauelous con-
templacion. And when the light of the
day discoueryd y^e wayes, I sawe befoze
me, on the most highest place of y^e moun-
tayne, a tower so hygh, that me semyd
it atteynyed to the heuyn. Hit was made
by suche artifice, that of the strangenes
therof, I began to meruayll, & I toy-
ned

ned my selfe to the foote therof. The
tyme offeryd me more to feare, then to
regard or note it, beholding the strange
ouerage & newelte of the edeficé. The
fundaciō wheron it was foundyd, was
of a stone clere and stronge of nature,
wherupō was reysed. iiii. great pillers
of violet marble, so fayre, and so hygh,
beyonde the comon forme, that it was
meruayll how they were systeynyd. A-
boue the whiche was fabrycate a tower
iii. square, the most strongest that could
be deuised: on euery square therof, on þe
height there stode an humayn Image,
made of metall, paynted wth theyr owne
colours, one tawny, a nother blacke, &
the thirde gray, eche of them holding a
chayne in theyr handes, made of great
force. And on the heyght of the tower,
ther was a pynacle full of great clere-
nes & light, comyng fro a caye of light
issuyng out of the tower. I harde. ii.
watches who neuer seaced, but still wa-
kyd. Of these thynges greatly I mer-
B.ii. uay.

napled, & could not tell what to thynke
or to say. Thus beyng in great doubt
and confusion; I sawe ioyntynge to the
marbell a staire mountyng to the gate
of the tower, wherof the entre was so
darke, that to mount vp, semyd impossi-
ble: how be it, I delibered, wyllynge
rather to go to my perdicyn in moun-
tyng, then to saue my self with taryeng.
Thus takyng harte, I began to moue
and when I was vp .iii. steppes, I
found a doze of Iron, the which satisfi-
ed me rather to tast w my handes, then
to attayne therto by syghte, by reason
of y darknes that I was in. And when
I came to the gate, I founde ther a por-
ter, of whome I demaundyd licens to
entre. He aunswered, how he was con-
tent, so that fyrst I shuld leue behynde
me myne armure. I grauntyd hym to
leue suche as I bare customably vpon
me. Then he sayd: My ffrend, it ape-
rith well, that of the vsage & custome of
this house thou knowest but lytle: The
armour

armoure that I demaunde, and those
that it behoueth the to leue, are suche
as the harte is wonte to be defendyd
withall, fro heuynes & sorowe, as are:
hope, rest, & contentacion: for to haue
those condicions, ther may none ioy of
the demaunde that thou despyest. And
when I knew his entension, withoute
any further aduylse, I aunswered & assu-
ryd hym, that I was come thither with-
out any of those armours. The he graū-
tyd the openyng of the gate, & so with
greate trauaill and soze trouble, I ary-
uyd to the height of the tower, where I
found a nother portcr, who demaundyd
of me as þ other dyd. And when I had
made hym lyke aunswere, he gaue me
place to entre. Then I went all the
length of the tower, and enteryd in to
a halle, where in þ myddes therof stode
a chayre brennyng full of fyre: in the
whiche satte he who made to me the re-
quest, and causer of my perdicion. And
myne epen were so chargyd w regar-

B.iii. dyng

ding of this ouerage, & my tonge was
so oppressed, that I could demaund no
questiō of all these metuails. And as I
regardyd them, I sawe the.iii.chaynes
that the Images held on the height on
þe tower, were fast tyed about this pooze
captiue pꝑsoner, who alwayes bzent,
and neuer consumyd. Then I saw two
sorrowful women, theyꝝ faces ful of we-
pynges and dolours. They ordeyned
to sette on his hed with greate crueltie,
a crowne full of sharpe poyntes of stea-
le, without pyte, persyng his hed to the
bꝛayne. Also ther was a blacke mozion,
bestured in yelow, who came often ty-
mes w a great sawchon, to strike hym,
and euer I saw how the pacient recey-
ued the strokes with a shelde, subtilly
issuyng out of his hedde: the which co-
uered hym to the feete. I saw other.iii.
seruañtes ryght diligent, who brought
hym meate on a blacke cloth, and with
great fury gaue him mete of bitter tast.
And on the one syde of the table I sawe

an

an olde man syt in a chaire lenynge his
hedde in one of his handes, lyke a man
solitary in thought & pensyvenes. All
these thynges I could scant se for the
darkenes of the towre: but by reason of
a clere shynynge lyght, that issuyd out
of the prisoners harte, which gaue clere
lyghte ouer all. And when this priso-
ner saw me so astonyd, to se thinges of
suche mystery: And that he saw tyme to
pay me w his wordes, though he were
not in my det yet to gyue me some rest,
& solacious comforte, with his discrete
reasons, medlyd with piteous weppyn-
ges, he began to say in this maner.

The prisoner.

Some parte of my harte I shall
discouer, as I oughte to do, for
the sorowe that I haue of the, ac-
cording to thy deserte, how be it, thou
seist well that in my trybulaciō I haue
no powre, to feale any other mans euil,
myne owne is so great, I pray the take
for satisfactiō, not that I do, but that I
B.iiii. desyre

desire, of thy comyng hyther I ame the
cause, I ame he whome thou sawest led
as a prisioner, bycause of the tribulaciō
that thou arte in, thou knowest me not.
Come agayne to thy spirites and take
rest, and supet iudgement, to thentent
thou mayst be ententyue to that I wyll
say. Thy comyng was to remedy me,
my wordes shall be to aduertyse y, who
I ame. I shall shew the, and of the my-
steryes that thou hast seene, I shall in-
fourme the. The cause of my prision, I
wold thou knewdest, and I requyre the
to delyuer me if it be in thy puissaunce,
knowe for certayne, I ame Vereano
sonne to duke Guerro, whome god per-
don, & of the duches Colerea, my byrthe
was in this realme, where thou arte
present, named Macedonia, my fortune
ordenynd that I became amorous of
Laureola Doughter to kynge Guallo,
who at this present tyme regneth, who
I shuld rather haue fledde fro, then to
haue fallen in to the trace of loue, and
spe-

ſpecially in ſo hygh a place, but as the
fyrſt mouynge, maye not excuſe me in
ſtede of forſakynge therof, by reaſon I
haue confermyd it by good wyl. Alſo lo
ue hath vanquiſhed me, & brought me
in to this howſe, namyd the Caſtell of
loue, who neuer perdonyth, for he ſeing
diſplayed the bailes of my deſyre, hath
broughte me in to y^e ſtate that thou leiſt
me in, and to the entent, thou ſhuldeſt
the better note, and marke the fundaci
on of this, and of al that thou haſt ſene,
thou ſhalt know that the ſtone, wheron
the pyſon is foundyd, is my fayth, who
determineth vtterly to ſuffre the dolour
of this payne, for the welth of his euill.
The great pyllers that are aſſyſted to
this ſtone, are my vnderſtandynge, my
reaſon, my memory, & my wyl, whom
amours commaundyd to apere before
his preſence, or he wolde gyue any ſen
tence apon me. And the better to execute
on me his true iuſtyce, demaundyd of
eche of them, yf they conſentyd that I

B.b. ſhuld

shuld be taken prisoner, bicause if any
of them wolde not haue consentyd, he
wolde haue asoyled me fro payne and
blame, to the whiche demaunde all.iiii.
aunswerd in this maner. first vndersta
dyng said: I consent to the euill of the
payne, for the welth of the cause, wher-
fore my wyll is, that he be taken. Then
sayd Reason: & I consent not allonely
that he be in prison, but I ordeyne that
he there abyde, and dye: for it were bet-
ter for hym the happy deth, then to lyue
in dyspayre cōsidering for whom he shal
suffre it. Then sayd Memory, syn that
vnderstanding & reason, cōsentyth that
without deth he can not be deliuered, I
then pmyse, he shall neuer forget it, but
alwayes haue it in his remembraunce.
Then sayd wyll: seyng it is thus I will
then be the key of his prison, and deter-
myne alwayes to be persecuter, of wyll
and desyre. This seing the god of loue
who ought to haue sauid me, cōdemned
me, & gaue this cruell sentence agaynst
me.

me. As for þ. iii. images standing on þ
walles of þ towre eche of them of a con
trary colour, as tawny, blacke, & gray,
The one is heynnes, the other anguish,
and the thurde trauaill. The cheynes in
theyr handes are their strengthes, wher
with they holde faste tyed the harte in
such wyse that it can recouer none ease
nor rest. The great clerenes & chynnyng,
that the Eagle hath in his bek & wynges
as thou hast sene in the hyghell parte
of the towre, whiche is myne inwarde
thoughtes, whiche hath so great clere
nes in it selfe, that it suffiseth to enli
myne þ darknes of this clowdy pryson,
and the force therof is so great that the
strength of the thick walles, can not let
it, but that it wyll attaigne to the Eagle
in suche wyse, þ they wyll go to gether
in cōpany, bycause they are the thinges
that mountyth and ascendyth hyghest,
for the which cause my pryson is in the
hyghest place of the lande. The.ii. wat
ches that thou herest, so dilygently wat
chyng

chyng, be **M**isshap, & **H**ate. They be of
that deuise. & no hope nor remedy shuld
entre into me. & darke stayres to mount
on, is angursh, wheron I mountyd, as
thou seyst. The fyrst porter was desyre,
who to all heuynes openyth the gate.
Therfoze he sayd to the & thou shuldest
leue al thyne armure of pleasoure. The
other porter was tozmet, who brought
me hyther, who is of the same cōdicyō.
The chayze of fier wherin thou seist me
syt, is my iuste affection, whose flames
alwayes bynneth in myne entrayles.
The .ii. women & gaue me the crown of
martyrdom are called payne & passyon,
who satisfieth my fayth with this pre-
sent reward. The olde man & thou seyst
syt in so great study, representeth great
thought & pensyvenes w greuous care
& solicitude. The which (ioyned with &
other euyls) manifesteth my pooze lyfe.
The blacke moze besturyd in yelow, &
who trauepleth to take awaye my lyfe,
is named dyspayre, & the feld that issu-
eth

eth out of my hed defending me fro his
strokes, is my wytte, who (seyng he dys-
payre wold flee me) cōmandeth me to de-
fende my lyfe, cōsyderynge the deserte of
Laureola, he cōmaundeth me to desyre
long life wth sufferance, rather then with
deth to make an ende. The black boord
for me to eate on, is ferme stedfastnesse
wheron I eate. Thynke & slepe, theron
are the heuy meates, of myne contepla-
tiōs. The.iii. diligēt seruātes he serueth
me, are named, euyl, payne and dolour.
One bereth the meat of doubtfulnesse,
wherof I eate. a nother bereth dyspayre
wherin he meat is brought, & another be-
reth he cup of tribulatiō, wherin I drink
drawing water fro he hart to the eyen, &
fro he eyen to the mouth. Now iudge thy
self, if I be wel serued, if I haue nede of
remedy he seyst. I requyre the syn he arte
here argued that thou wylt serche for
me some remedy, & sorow myne euyl, I
desyre of the none other good, but that
Laureola may be aduertysed & knowe
by

by the state how thou seyst me, and peraduenture thou wylt excuse the bycause thou seyst me fayle power to make the a recompence. I requyre the let it not be vndone for that cause, for more vertue it is to remedy them that be in tribulation, then to susteyne them that be in prosperite: let thy workes be suche, that thou repente not thy selfe, for lacke of doyng it, when thou myghteste haue done it.

The aunswer of the auctour
to Laureola.

Thy wordes shewe well, that loue hath taken and occupieth thy libertie, but not thy vertue, the which I proue by that I se in the, to be more redy to dye, then to speke: how be it, thou hast forcyd thy wyll, to proue the werynes of my lyfe, iudgyng what for trauels passyd, & for my solpitude present, that I haue but small hope to lyeue, & without doubt, so it is, for thou causest my perdition, despynging doubt-
tes

tes remedy, and yet thou doest remedy
the same, as a persight iudge. And su-
rely I haue hadde no lesse pleasour to
heare the, then I haue had sorowe to se
the. For by thy persone is well sene thy
payne, & by thy reasons knowen is thy
bountie, in gyuynge socour and ayde
to the neddy/lyke as thou hast doue now
to me. For I consyderynge the strange
mysteries of this thy prysen, I doubted
of my saluacyon, beleuynge all had been
but illusions done by arte diabolycke,
rather then by any cōdycon amorous.
For this thou hast shewed me I thanke
the, and nowe I knowe what thou
arte, I thynke well employed the tra-
uayll that I haue enduryd for thy sake,
the knowledge of the moralite of these
figures, hath ryght well pleased me, for
though I well regarded them yet for
lacke of knowledge my harte was in
captiuite and prysone, and now I ame
out of doubt & feare. And where as thou
hast cōmaundyd me, that I shuld gyue
know-

knowlege to Laureola in what case I
haue sene þ, the which to do I fynd gret
perel for a man of a strange naciō, what
maner & forme shuld he fynde to execute
such a message, I haue not alonely this
doubt but dyuerce other: The rudenes
& dulnes of my wytte, the dyfference of
oure speche & tonge, the noblenes of
Laureola, and the grauite of this be
synes, so that in this case I fynde but
small remedy, but alonely my good
will, whiche vanquysyth all other in-
conuenientes and daungers for to thy
seruice I offre my selfe as moche as
though I hadde bene thyne owne ser-
uant all the dayes of my lyffe. And I
promyse the þ with good hart I shal ac-
cōplish to my power al thy cōmandemē-
tes. I pray to god, I may be as happy
as I ame despyous to serue the so that
thy deliuerance may bere witnes of my
true dilygence so great affection I bere
to the, & so moche I ame bound to loue
thy noblenes that if I myght remedy
thy

thy trybulacions I shuld repute my
selke well rewardyd for all my traupls,
so that in the meane tyme thou wylt
bere al maner of assautes paciently in
trustyng vpon me that when I retorne
and bryng þ any remedy þ thou mayste
take suche corage in thy lyfe, that thou
mayst feale the sparkels therof.

The Auctoz.

When I had endyd myne aunsewre
to Aereano, then I deptyd fro hym
and lernyd the waye to the cytie of
Suria where as lay þ kyng of Maze-
donia, which was halfe a iourney fro þ
prisone fro whence I deptyd. Thus I
came to the courtte, & wente to þ palays
to treat, and to se þ maner of the people
of that courtte, and to regarde the forme
and situacion of the palayce, and how
I myght resorte, goo, come, or abyde,
to entre in to the enterpryce, that I had
in hand. And this I dyd dyuers dayes,
to lerne and to se, what way shulde be
best & mooste couenable to my purpose, &

C. the

the moze I studyed the lesse disposytion
I found to attayne to that I desyrd
when I had serched al maner of wayes
I thought most auayleable to my pur-
pose to acquaynte my selfe wth the yong
courters and with the principall of y^e
courte: for generally among them is
found good maner and cartesye, and
thus I drew so longe to theyr company
with in a breue tyme I was estemydde
among them as though I had bene one
of theyr pp^{re} nacion, and at last I fell
in aquayntance among the ladyes, and
lytle and lytle I fell in aquayntance
with the ladye Laureola, and dyuerce
tymes I recountyd to her of the mer-
uayls of spayne and of other places,
where as I had bene. The whiche she
gretly delyghtyd to here. Then I seyng
my selfe in maner with her as a seruant
I thought then I myght shewe her that
thyng that I desyrd, and on a day as
I saw her aparte fro other ladyes I
knelyd downe and sayd as folowith.

The

The Auctor to Laureola.

It is lesse goodnes to perdone the
great & paystante persones, when
they haue dseruyd trespase then
to be teuengyd vpon the simple & small
psonages, when they haue done iniury,
for y^e one wyll make amendes by reason
of they^r honour and the other are perdo
nyd by vertue, the whiche is due to be
vlyd, amonge greate personages, and
most specyally to noble ladyes & gentle
women hauing noble hartes accordyng
to they^r birth, they ought naturally to
haue pyte in they^r condicions. Lady I
say thys for peraduenture in shewyng
to you myne entent, I shalbe reputyd
to bolde, not hauyng respecte to your
great magnificens. In the begynnynge
of I was determyned to speake to you,
I was in great doubt. But at the ende
I thoughte it for the best, that yf ye en
treate me, inhumaynly, to suffre y^e payn
for my speakyng, rather then to endure
in dolour for beyng styll. Lady ye shal

C.ii. knowe

knowe that rydyng on a daye amonge
Sharpe mountayns, I sawe by the com-
mandement of Amours, how Lereano
sonne to Duke Guerro, was taken & led
to prision as a prisioner, who prayed me
to ayde hym in his trouble and besynes.
By whose occasion I lefte the waye of
my reste, and toke the daungerous way
of his trauayle: and after that I hadde
longe gone with hym, I sawe howe he
was put in to a swete prisione as toward
his wyll, but it was ryght bytter, as to
his lyfe: for there he susteyneth all the
euyls and paynes of the world: Dolour
turmenteth hym, passyō foloweth hym,
dispaire distroiethe him, deth manaseth
hym, payne executeth hym, thoughtes
waketh hym, desyre troubleth hym, he-
ynes cōdemneth hym, his fayth wyll
not saue hym, & I knewe by hym, that
all this ye are the cause. And I iudge
by that I sawe hym, his dolour (whiche
he kepeth secrete in his mynde) to be
moze greater, then he hath discouered

to me

to me by wepinges, but by reason of the
syghte, & I fe of your p[re]sence, I fynde
that his to[rm]ent is not without a iuste
cause. And w[ith] soze syghes issuyng fro
his harte, he desyred me to gyue you
knowledge of his euyl: his request was
with payne & dolour, & my obedience, of
pure cōpassyon of his payne & to[rm]ent,
though I iudge you cruel, yet by & fre-
quētatiō of your gētlenes I se & thinke
ye be piteous, & not w[ith]out reason: for by
reason of your excellēt fayrenes & digni-
te, he beleueth the one, & by your noble
cōdicion hopeth on & other: & his payne
wherof ye be causer, yf ye wyll remedy
w[ith] pitie accordyng to his deseruinge, ye
shalbe thē praised aboue al other womē
& euer were. Remembre now, & behold
whether it is better to be praysed for gy-
uyng remedy, or els to be blamyd for
sleyng of hym. Cōsyder how moch ye be
bound to hym, & for al his passiō & aduer-
site, yet he doth serue you, & if ye remedy
hym, thē he is & occasiō to cause you to

C.iii. do as

as moch as god maye do, for it is of no
lesse esteeme, the redemer, then is he crea-
tor: for in takynge fro hym the deth, ye
shall do as moche, as god to gyue hym
lyfe. I knowe not what excuse ye can
make not to remedy hym, without ye be
leue that sleynge is a vertue. I desyre
of you none other good, but to be sorry
for his euill and payne. This desyre
shall be to you nothyng greuable: for
he had rather endure in hym selfe still
payne and aduersite, then to cause you
to feale any payne & displeasour. This
my bolde speakynge condemneth me,
but the dolour of hym that hath sente
me, asloyleth me agayne, his payne is
so great, that none euill can come to me
to be equall to his payne. I requyre
your gentlenes, let your aunswer be co-
fortable to your vertue, and not to the
fercenes that ye shew by your regardes
And in your so doyng, ye shalbe pray-
sed, and I reputyd a good messenger,
and the paynefull prisoner Lereano, de-
lyuered

lyuered quyte fro all payne,

The aunswer of Aureola
to the auctour,

Lyke wylse as thy reasons be teme-
rous and fearfull to declare, sem-
blably they are great and greuous
to perdone. yf thou were of Macedonia
as thou arte of Spayne, thy reasons
and thy lyfe shuld synthe together, but
thou beinge a straunger shalte not re-
ceyue the payne that thou deseruyste.
And as for the pytie that thou thynkest
to be in me, I wolde thou knewest, that
in suche lyke cases, doubtfull iustice &
crueltie is as ryue and dewe, as is cle-
mence or pitie, the whiche yf I shulde
execute vpon the, shulde be cause of .ii.
welthes. The one, therby al other shuld
take ensample of feare. And the other,
all noble women shulde be esteemed and
reputed accordynge to theyr demerites.
How be it, if thy sole hardynes, requyre
puniycion, yet my mekenes and benigni-
te consenteth to perdone the, though

C.iii. it

it be agaynst the ryght waye of iustice:
foz not alonely foz thy sole hardynesse
thou oughteste to dye, but also foz the
offence that thou hast done agaynst my
bountie and vertue, & which thou haste
sette in the balance of doubt, bycause
this that thou haste sayde to me, yf it
came to knowledge of sundry persons,
some wolde beleue that thou foundeste
me redy aparellled to accomplyshe thy
desyre, as in hauyng pytie of the payne
of Lereano. Thou oughtest to thynke
that my dignyte shulde haue put the in
feare, rather then his sole hardines to
haue made the so bolde. yf thou entend
any further to procure his liberte, thou
mayst well seke foz his remedy, and fall
thy selfe in perell: therfore I aduise the
seynge thou arte a straunger, seke foz
thy naturall sepulture, and not in Ma-
cedonia, and to comon with the in such
maters, I offende my tonge, therfore I
wyl say no moze, but I wyl thou know
that this that I haue sayde is suffy-
cent,

ent, and yf any hope be in the to speake
any further in this case, thy lyfe shalbe
shorte, or if thou thynke to come to me
with any mo such ambassades.

CThe Auctoz.

When Laureola had endyd her woꝝ-
des, I sawe well her reasons were
short, but longe was her trouble &
displeasour. So I departed fro her, &
thought vpo many thynges, the which
greciously toꝛmentyd me, I rcinembꝛed
how farre I was out of Spayne, & of
my longe tarpeng thence. Also I callyd
to my mynd þ great dolour of Lereano
soꝛe mistrutpꝛg his helthe, & I percey-
ued well I could not accōplysh that I
was purposyd to do, as to byꝛng Lerea-
no to lyberte wout great perel yet I de-
termyꝛned to folow myne enterpꝛyse, du-
ryꝛg my lyfe, ozels to byꝛnge Lereano
some hope of relefe. And w this purpo-
se, the next day I went to þ palays to se
what cositenance Laureola made: and
whē she saw me, she entreated me as she

C: b. was

was accustomed to do before, without
changynge of her porte or chere: whose
sure demeanour brought me in greate
suspecte. I thought she dyd it to proue
yf I wolde returne agayne to entre in
to my fyrste reasons, I fearyd lest she
hadde dissimuled to cause me to take co-
rage to haue spoken agayne for Lerea-
no, and then to haue punished me for
my foly she enterpryse. So I coude not
tell wherto to truste, thus I passed that
daye and dyuerce other, and euer me
thought by the apparence that I could
se by her, that I hadde more cause to be
bolde, then reason to feare. And in that
byleue, I wayted a tyme conuenient, &
spake with her agayne, shewynge my
selfe fearefull, though I was not so in
dede. For in such besynes, and with su-
che persons, it is behouable to fynde
some doubtfull turbation: for in suche
cases, to moche boldenes is reputyd for
hype, for therby myghte be thought that
the dignyte, nor auctorite of the person
were

were not esteemed. Therfoze to saue me
fro that errour, I spake to her with no
great audacite, but in a fearefull maner
So I shewed her all that I thought cō
uenient, for the remedy of Lereano, but
her aunswer was accoꝝdyng to the fyrst
sayng she was not so force, noꝝ in such
displeasour with me, as she was befoze.
How be it, in her wordes, she gaue me
knowledge, that I shulde be styll and
holde my peace, but yet me thought her
continance gaue me lycence to speake.
And thus euer when I founde tyme &
place, I requyzed her to haue pitie vpo
Lereano. And so diuers tymes I found
her aunswers sharpe in wordes, & meke
in countenance. And when I had well
aduyrsed al her demeanour, I hoped vp
pon some profytte, scynge in her dyuers
thynges, wherby an amorous harte
myght be knowen: for euer when I saw
her alone, she was pensyfe and full of
study. And when she was amonge com=
paup, she wolde not be mery, she abhoꝝ=
ryd

ted company, and to be alone was her
pleasour, often tymes she wolde fayne
her selfe syke, to eschewe other pleasurs
and if she were espyed, she wolde fayne
some dolour or payne, and often tymes
she wolde gyue soze sighes. And if Lere
ano hadde bene named in her p̄sence,
she wolde sodeynly starte, and leue her
compyng, and blushe redde as a rose &
agayne pale: her voyce wolde change,
and her mouth waxe dype, and though
she coueryd her thoughtes as moch as
was possyble, yet her piteous passyon,
surmounted her discrete dissimulation,
(I say) pitefulnes, for without doubte,
accoꝝdyng as she shewed after, she recey
ued these alterations, moze of pytie, thē
of loue. Howbeit I thought otherwys
in her, seynge the tokens that I sawe in
her, I thoughte my selfe halfe spedde of
some good hope, and therewith I spedde
me to Lereano, and after that I hadde
shewed hym all ē was passyd bytwene
me and Laureola. Then I counsayled
hym

hym to wyte to her, offerynge my selfe
to bere the lettre, and though he was as
then moze redy to remembze what was
best for hym to do, to wryte or not. At
last he toke ynke and paper, and wrote
suche reasons as foloweth.

The lettre fro Acreano
to Laureola.

If I hadde as good reason to wryte
to you, as I haue to loue. Then w
out feare, I durste be bolde to do it
but to thynke to wryte to you troubleth
my wytte, so that I lese myne vndersta-
dynge. Therfore or I begynne, I fynde
my selfe at a greate confusyon: My be-
leue sayth I may do it boldly: and your
hyghnes putteth me in feare & doubte.
In the one I fynde hope, & in the other
dispayre: at the ende I agreed to wryte,
but myne vnhap is to begyn in þe houre
of sorow, for ouerlate it is, now to com-
playne me, for I am now in þe case, if I
haue deseruyd any grace or merite, ther
is nygh no thyng lefte luyng in me
to fele

to fele it, sayyng alonely my true fayth,
whiche can not dye, as for my harte is
without strength, and my soule without
power, and my wytte without memozy.
How be it yf it wold please you to shewe
me so moche mercy, as to these my pre-
sente reasons, to make some aunswer:
the true fayth that I bere you, shulde
then suffice, to restore agayne in me, all
the partes that are destroyed, I repute
my selfe culpable, to demaunde of you
any reward, and neuer dyd you seruyce,
and though ye take my seruyce & payne
in good gree, yet ye paye me alwayes
with doubtfull thoughtes. ye may say:
how aine I so bolde to wryte to you, yet
haue no meruayl therof, for your beau-
tie causeth myne affection, and the af-
fection myne desyre, and desyre y payne
and the payne causeth the boldnes. And
for this that I haue done, yf ye thynke
I haue deserued deth, comaund to gyue
it me: For it were better for me to dye
for your cause, then to lyue without the
hope

hope of your good wyll. And to say the
trouth, without ye gyue me the deth, I
shall gyue it my selfe, to fynd therby the
lybertie, the which I praynge I haue ser-
chyd for. This wolde I do, and it were
not that I shulde leue you defamyd, as
to be renomyd a murtherer. Unhappy
shulde be that remedye to deliuer me
out of payne, and to cause you to bere
blame. Therfore in eschewynge of all
such incōuenientes, I requyre you send
me your lettre, as a reward for all myne
euyls, that I see not my selfe, for I can
not lyue with that I suffre, & my deth
shuld so toche your honoz, that all the
dayes of your lyfe ye shuld be defamyd.
And yf it maye please you to do me any
relese tary not, no: be not slowe lest ye
shall haue no tyme to repent you, no: no
place to redeme me.

¶ The auctoz.

AND where as Lereano accōrdyng
to the grauite of his passyōs wold
further haue executed his wrytyng, but
then

then vsyng prudent discreciō, for all his
payne wrote no larger, for that he had
wryten was sufficyēt to cause Laureola
to knowe hys euyl and payne, for when
letters be wryten at length, that is vsyd
when the wyter thynketh, that the rede
hath as good wyll to rede them, as the
sender hath to wryte them, but Laureola
was quyte deliuered fro that p̄sumpciō
wherfoze he extendyd hys letter no lar-
ger. The which when it was endyd, I
recepyd. with greate heuines, to se the
soze wepyng that Laureano made, the
which I felt moze, then I can expresse.
Then I went fro hym and spedde me to
Laureola, & when I came ther as she
was, I found a tyme propyse to speke to
her, and oꝛ I delyuered the letter, I said
to her as foloweth.

The auctoꝛ to Laureola.

Ryght excellent Lady, fyrst oꝛ I say
any thyng to you I require you
to receyue the dolour & payne of
me your pooze karytue, for the dischar-
gynge

ging of myne importunat suet, for wher
so euer ye shall fynde me of custome, I
shalbe euer moze redy to serue you the to
be importunate. And surely Lereano en
dureth moze payne for the tronble that
ye receyue, then for the passiō that he suf
feth, wherof he wold excuse hym selfe
though his wyll desire to suffre it, to the
eutent that it shuld not trouble you, yet
his sowle desireth not to suffre but ra
ther to be in reste. The one cōmaun
deth hym to be styll, and the other byd
deth hym put oute his voyce. But tru
styng in your vertue, his dolour is op
pressyd, desyryng to put all his euyl in
to your presence, beleuyng on the one
parte ye shuld be dangerous, & on the
other parte that it shulde cause you to
haue compassyon. Beholde how many
wayes he deseruyth meryte, to forget
his trouble he desyreth the deth and not
withoute ye consent therto, and bycause
it shuld not be said that ye consent ther
to he desyreth the life, in that he receued

D.

his

his payne to be happy, and for lacke of
his Desyre, he loseth his vnderstan-
dyng, and to prayse your beawte, he de-
syreth ayde of all the worlde. Beholde
how moche ye are bounde to him, for he
prayseth them that distroyeth him, he
hath all his remembrance vpon that
thyng that is the occasyon of all his e-
uyl, and by aduenture I shuld be so vn-
happy that he shuld lese his loue by my
intercession, which he hath deseruyd by
reason of his faythfull harte: yet I had
rather I were dede, wherfore I requyre
you to receyue this letter fro hym, and
in the redyng therof to shew hym some
mercy, for the payne that he hath suf-
feryd, and yf ye blame hym ye are moze
culpable then he, for that ye haue suf-
feryd hym to endure payne so longe, ye
perceyue well the sorow that he is in, by
the wordes in his letter, the which tho-
ugh his mouth spake them, & his hand
wrote them, yet his dolour dydde or-
deyne and deuise them, & as god sende
you

you parte of heuen as ye haue deseruyd
in the erth that ye will receyue this his
letter, & make hym an aunswere, and al-
onely with this rewarde ye maye redeme
hym, and therby do away his debilitie, &
mynnysh hys tozment, and fauor his sy-
kenes, and byynge hym in to that state,
that he wyll desyre no moze welth, noz
endure no moze payne, and if ye wyll
not thus moch do for hym, to whom ye
are so moch bounde, noz at my request,
I maye then well repute you cruell,
but I hope so moche in your vertue, &
accozdyng to yuor olde custome, ye can
do no thyng but vertue.

Chanuswere of Laureola
to the Auctoz.

The perseuerance in thy purswt
byyngeth me to so streyght a case,
that many tymes my thought is
dought what to do, other to banysh the
owt of this lande, oz els to Jeobarde
my fame, in gyuyng the place & leysure
to say what thou lyst, yet I ame agreyd
not

not so to do, noꝛ to put the to that extre-
myte, by reason of the compassyon that
I haue of the: foꝛ though thyne ambaf-
sade be euyl pet thyne entensyō is good
as to fynd remedy foꝛ y^e soꝛowfull. And
the other way I wyll not take bycause
of myne honoꝛ, foꝛ he can not be delyue-
red fro payne, without I be defamed.
yf I could remedy his euyl withoute
daunger oꝛ blottynge of myn honour, I
wold do it with no lesse affeccyon, then
thou desyrest: but thou knowest well
how that women are bound to pꝛeserue
theyꝛ good fame, rather then theyꝛ lyfe,
at the lest they shuld esteeme it moze then
theyꝛ bounte: foꝛ though y^e lyfe of Aere
ano, shuld fynyshe by deth, yet iudge thy
self, whether I ought rather to be pite-
ful to me self, oꝛ to his euyl. And if all
women ought thus to do, then specially
such as be of noble blod ought so to do:
foꝛ al peple soner regardeth a smal spot
in noble persons, then a great faulte in
low psonages. Therfoze in thy woꝛdes
con

conferme the to reason, for thy demaund
is vniust: þ̄ thynkest I am pleased w
thy comonig, which is cōtrary, though
thy demaund trouble me, yet thy cōdpciō
pleaseth me, & I haue pleasour to shew
the myne excuse w iust reasons, to saue
me fro charge, blame, & sclaunder. The
letter that thou woldest haue me to
receyue maye well be excusyd, for my
defence is of no lesse power, than the
perceuerance of his hope: but syn thou
haste brought it, I am pleasyd to recey
ue it, but hope not of any aunswere, tra
uayll no more to desyre it, nor at lest
speke no more therof, lesse that my dys
plesure trouble þ̄ not asmoche as thou
now prayseste my pacynce & sufferynge
I blame my selfe, & that in .ii. thynges,
bycause I comon so longe w the. The
one is bycause þ̄ qualyte & heate of the
cause hath brought me in trouble. The
other is bycause thou mayst thynke þ̄
I am well pleasyd to speke with the in
this mater, and beleuest how I shuld

D: iii.

agre

agre to Lereano though thou thynke so
I haue no meruayll: for wordes is the
Image of the harte. Go thy way, cōtent
the with thynne owne Iudgement, and
cary with the good hope, of that thou
despyest, and not to be condempnyd in
thynne own thought; for yf thou returne
agayn to make new request, thou wylt
repent it, I will aduise the lette this be
the last spekyng of that mater ozeles &
mayste well know thou shalt repent it;
for sekynge remedy for a nother, shalt
fayle remedy for thy selfe.

The Auctor.

The wordes of Laureola dyd byng
me in to great cōfusyon, for when
I thought best to vnderstand her
then I knew lest of her wyl: whā I had
most hope, then I was farthest out of y
way. And when I thought my selfe
most sure, then I was in most feare for
y dyuersyte of her. Iesture & behauour
blyndyd myne vnderstandyng. The
receyuyng of the letter satisfied me, but
the

the ende of her woꝝdes put me in dyl-
payze, so that I know not what way to
folow, noꝝ how I shuld fynd any hope.
And thus as a man without counsayll,
I departyd fro her, & went to Lereano
thynkyng to gyue hym some counsayll
and to seke þ best meanes that I coulde
deuyse to remedy parte of his euell, and
when I cam to hym I said as foloweth

¶ The Auctoꝝ to Lereano.

If the expedicio that I byꝝng, ye
may well knowe where woꝝdes
fayle, dyllygence can not pꝛeuayll.

Thou dyddyst recoꝛmaūde thy remedy
to me, but fortune hath bene to me so
cōtrary, in that she wolde not be to me
so fauourable, as to satysfye me in any
thyng that is passyd, but fortune is ra-
ther myne enemy. Though in this case
I hadde good excuse to ayde the, for
tough I was the messenger, thynne was
the besynes. The mater that I haue pas-
syd with Laureola I cā not vnderstand
it noꝝ can not shew it, bycause it is of so

D. iiii,

new

newe and dyuerce cōdytyons, a thou-
sand tymes I thought to haue bene at
the poynte, to haue gyuen the remedy.
And agayne as often, to haue gyuen
the thy sepulture: al tokens of her wyl,
(wonne & vanquysshed) I saw in her cō-
tenance, and all the folysh frowarde-
nes of women withoute loue, I harde
in her woordes, Iudgyng vpon her de-
meanour. I was ioyfull, and heyrng
her woordes, I was sorowfull. Some-
tyme I thought she dyd prudently dys-
mule, and agayne I thought she wan-
tyd loue, but fynally when I saw her so
moueable & changable, I beleuyd then
veryly that ther was no loue in her: for
if a persone be taken with loue, the hart
shall be constante, and where as loue
lacketh, ther is mutabyltye. On the o-
ther parte I thought she dyd it for fawe
of the cruell harte of the king her father
what shall I say she hath receyued thy
letter, & inanyshed me to the deth, yf I
speke any further in thy cause, beholde
now

now this greuous case, Ther semyth in
one poynt .ii. dyfferences, yf I shuld
shew the all that was passyd bytwene
her & me, I shulde want tyme to speke
yt. I requyre the enforce thy wytte and
aswage thy passion, for in folowynge thy
payne, thou hast moze nede of sepulture
thennie of comfote: for withoute thou
take some repose, thou shalt leue here
thy boones, in stede of thy true fayth,
the whych thou oughtest not to do: for
satysfying of thy selfe, it were moze con-
uenient for the to lyue rather then to
dye, for to be out of payne. This I say,
bycause I se the gloryfye in thy payne
but in sufferynge payne, thou mayst at-
taygne to the crowne of lorde & prayse
In that it may be sayd, & thou enforcest
thy selfe to suffre payne for the lades
sake. Suche as be stronge & vertuoues
in theyr grettyll mysfortune, shew gret-
test harte. Ther is no dyfference bytwe-
ne the good & euill, wout the bountye
be tempt and prouyd. Consider that w
D.v. longe

longe lyfe, a thyng maye be wonne:
haue good hope in thy fayth. Thynke
þ the purpose of Laureola may change,
and thy ferme stedfast loue neuer. I
wyl not say all that I thynke for thy
consolacion, for I perceyue by thy we-
pynges & complaynt, that ardent deth
hath lyghtened his flames, but what so
euer thou thynkyst that I can do for
the, comaund it: for I haue no lesse wyl
to serue the then I haue to remedy thy
helth.

¶ Hereano to the auctoz.

The dysposycion that I ame in, þ
seyst. The priuasyō of my vnder-
standyng thou knowest, þ turba-
syon of my tong thou mayst well note
& merke: therfore haue no meruaylle
though myne aunswere be moze with
wepyng, then with oznate wordes, by-
cause þ Laureola putteth fro her harte,
the swete appetyght of my wylle, the
thynges that be past bytween þ and her,
for all that thou arte at thy liberte, yet
thy

thy iudgement can not vnderstande her
meanyng, how shuld I the knowe them
for I ame so passyonyd: than I can not
lyue but alonely to prayse her beautie &
to repute my last ende happy. I wolde
these shulde be þe last wordes of my lyfe:
bycause they be to prayse her. what gret
ter welth can I haue then þe if I were
so happy to be rewardyd therwith, as
I deserue by reason of the payne that I
suffre. who then shuld be lyke me: better
it were for me to dye, syn I haue seruyd
her, the to lyue causyng her to haue any
trouble or dyspleasour. The thyng that
most shall greue me, is when I dye that
the eyen shall peryshe that hath seen
her, and the harte that remembreth her.
The which consyderyng what she is, al
my wyttes are past, the ordre of reason.
I say thus bycause thou seyst, that in
the warkes of my harte in steade of
faynte loue, my stedfast loue encreaseth
if in my captyue harte they consolaciōs
could take any frute. This that thou
hast

hast done to me, suffyseth to enforce me
but as the herping of them that be in he-
uynnes and lockyd in passyō, in to whose
sowle can entre no wordes of comforte,
and where thou saest I shuld suffre no-
ne euyll, Gyue me the strength therto,
and I shall put to my good wyll. As
for thynges of honoꝝ that thou shewest
me I know them by reason, and I deny
them agayne by the same reason: I
say I know them, for a man fre in liber-
te, shuld vse honoꝝ, and agayn I denye
it, as consernyng to my selfe: yet I seke
in my greuous payne to chose an hono-
rable death. The trauayll that thou
hast receyuyd for my sake, and þe desyre
that I se thou hast to delyuer me fro
payne, byndeth me to offre for the my
lyfe as often as it were nedefull. But
syn ther is but smal lyfe left in me, take
for satysfaction my desyre, and not my
power: yet I requyre the (syn this shall
be the fynall good dede, that thou canst
do for me, & the last that I shal receyue)
as

as to bere fro me a nother letter to Laureola with suche newes as she shall be gladde of, and wherby she shall know how I dyspose me to passe out of this transytoꝝ lyfe, and no moze to trouble her: & to the entent that with good wyll thou shuldest bere it to her, I wyll begynne it in thy pꝛesence wherof the matter shal be as folowith.

The letter of Aereano
to Laureola.

Syn that the sepulture is the rewarde of all myne euels, I ameredy now to receyue it, beloue that deth shall not dysplease me, for he is of small wytte that abhorꝝyth that thyng þ̄ gyueth libertie: but one thyng dyspleaseth me, that is in dyeng I shall lose all my hope euer to se you agayn, the whiche soze greueth me. It may be sayd in so shor̄te a space as I haue ben your seruant, how shuld I so sone lose my purssance: ye ought not to meruail therat, for þ̄ hope that ye haue brought me

me in, and smalle comeforte, with my
greate passyon, suffyleth to put away
to destroy greater force, then myne, yet
I can not beleue, that ye are cause ther-
of, without your workes do certifie the
same, but alwayes I haue beleuyd, that
your cōdycon pitcous, shulde surmount
your obstynate wyl, but sin ye wyl that
my life shal receue this damage, & faute
therof is myne owne mysfortune. I am
soze abashyd that ye sorow not in your
selfe, your owne ingratitude. I haue
gyuen you my liberte, & intyerly haue
gyuē you my harte, nothyng retaynyng
to my selfe: for all that, I can haue no
rewarde of loue, yet I desyre to serue
you. Who wold thynke that ye shulde
destroy that thyng that is your owne
certaynly ye are your owne enemy with-
oute ye fynde some remedy to saue me.
This ye ought to do, or els ye cōdemne
your selfe, for my deth & perdycon can
not profyght you. But I desyre that ye
wold sorowe for myne euyl: yet yf your go-
sorow

forow shuld do you any payne, then I
desyre it not, syn that lyuyng I neither
dyd ye serupce. It were no ryght that
dyeng I shuld cause you to haue trou-
ble. They that loke agaynst the sonne,
þ moze they regard it, the blynder they
be. And so the moze I remember your
fayrenes, the blynder is myne vnder-
standyng. This I say to thentent that
of this my rude wytyng ye shuld haue
no meruayll, for in the hard case that I
ame in, accorðyng to my wyll, I am bet-
ter dysposed to ende my lyfe, then to
make any reasones: yet I wolde that
thyng that ye ought to regarde, were so
orderyd that ye shuld not occupye your
vnderstandyng on a thyng so fayre fro
your condyciou. yf ye consent that I
shall dye bycause ye wold haue it pub-
lyshed, ye haue the power to slee me:
then be ye euyll coufayled, for without
hope your beautie hath sertyfied me
therof. And if ye esteeme my deth to be
good, bycause I ame not worthy to re-
ceyue

ceyue your grace; the whiche I haue
hopyd to wyne, by reasone of my true
fayth, the which I lese for lacke of de-
seruyng, and w this thought I thynk
to suffre all my payne. And if it seme to
you that the paynes that I endure for
your sake can not be remedyed, with-
oute offence to your honoꝝ. Thynk that
I wyll neuer desyre þe thyng, that shuld
toꝛne you to blame: what profyght
shuld any thyng do to me that shuld be
euyl to you. Allonely I desyre your
aunswere: for my fyrst & last reward
to be bryefe, I requyre you, syn ye make
an ende of my lyfe: yet at lest honoꝝ my
deth, for in the place where as the de-
sperate sowles becometh, yf ther be any
welth: There I desyre, to feale none
other ioy, but þe ye wyll honoꝝ my dede
bones that I may ioy a lytle with that
great gloꝝy.

¶ The auctor.

The wordes and letter of Acreano
fynished, In stede of wordes myn
eyen

eyen were satysfied, with greate we-
pyng, & so withonte power to speke, I
departyd, thynkynge my iudgemente
it shuld be the last tyme that I had any
hope to se hym agayn alyue. And as I
was on my way I wrote a superscryp-
cion vpon the letter, to thentent that
Laureola shuld be in doubt fro whence
it came. And when I came in to her
presence, I delyuered her the letter, who
beleuyng that it had come frome some
other persone, receyuyd it and began to
rede it. And all the season that she was
redyng, I regardyd styll her bysage, &
when she hadde made an ende, I saw
well she was soze troubelyd as though
she had sufferyd a great euill: yet the
regardyng of her turbacyon, excusyd
not my trouble. Then to assure my selfe
I demaundayd of her other questyons
no thyng concernyng to that purpose.
And to delyuer her selfe fro company,
I whych in suche case is perelous, lesse
that the manyfest mutacions discouer

¶ C i. not

not the secrete thoughtes of the harte.
Therfore she withdrew her selfe aparte,
and all that nyghte she was without
spekyng of any word to me, as tuchyng
that purpose. And the next day she sent
for me & shewed me many vertuous re-
sons to dyscharge her selfe fro any
thyng consentyng to release þ payne of
lereatio, howbett, she sayd þ she thought
great inhumanite to lese suche a man
as Lereano, for so small a pryce, as in
wrytyng of a letter, how be it in the re-
dyng of his letter I take but smal plea-
sour. Therfore here I haue wrytten a
letter, not w so pleasant and swet wo-
des, as be in his reasons: for who so
euer here the wordes in this my letter,
may well knowe þ I haue lytle studdyed
in the arte of eloquence. So for shame-
fastnes sodenly her face was inflamyd,
and as sodenly agayne pale, she was so
soze alteryd and thorte wyndyd, that in
maner she bzyethed for þ deth: her harte &
voyce so soze trymbled, that her dyscre-
cion

cion could not enforce her selfe to speke
therfore her aunswere was shorte, and
also the place requyred no lenger tyme.
So she toke me the letter, and kyst her
hand, and I receyuyd it. The tenour
wherof ensuyth.

The letter fro Laureola
to Lereano.

The deth that thou lokest for, by
reason of thy payne I haue ra-
ther deseruyd it, yf I shulde put
my wyll to thyne: but that is not so, for
this my wyttynge is moze to redeme
thy lyfe, then to satisfy thy desyre, what
shulde it profytte me to accomplysh it,
for yf I were accusyd therof, I coulde
haue no wytnes to salue me, but alone-
ly my pure entensyon, which is so pryn-
cypall a pettye, that his wordes shulde
not be taken nor beleued And with this
feare, I haue put to my hande to this
paper, my harte & mynde beyng in he-
uyn makynge hym iudge of my mynde,
to whome the trouthe of all thynges is

E. ii. many

manifest & known. The cause why I
doubtyd to aunswere the, was, bycause
withoute my condemnation thou canst
not be assolyed, as thou mayst well se:
foz though no creature know of this
letter, but thy selfe & the berer: yet I
know not what iudgement, any of you
may make vpon me, though it be but
good, yet I am spottyd with I suspecte
therof. Therfore I desyre the, when I
hast seen myne aunswere, remember the
fame & reuome of her that hath sent it,
of this I hertely desyre the, foz often
tymes suche fauours, are publyshyd, foz
some hath moze regard to the victozy,
then to honour of them that shewith
suche fauour. And whether it were bet-
ter foz me to be blamyd foz crueltie, or
to be spotted or defamyd foz beyng to
piteous, I repozte me to thy selfe: & yet
to gyue the some remedy, I vse now the
contrary, thou hast that thou desyrest:
& I that I feare, I requyre the to turne
& wynde, and kepe secrete my letter in
thy

thy remembrance, for if thou do beleue
it, then it nede not to be seen : for that I
haue wryten yf it were sene, it shuld be
thought that I loue the, and yf thou be
leue, the reasons that I hane sayde, to
be spoken rather by dissymulaciō, then
of trouth : then arte thou begyled, in
that beleue, for yt is clene contrary, for
surely I say them rather with a piteous
entensciō then w any amorous entent :
And to cause the to beleue this, I wold
further extende my wordes, yf I hadde
leysour. But to put the in to none other
suspeccion, I make an ende of my letter
and to thentent that my warkes shulde
receyue, a iust rewarde, thus wyl I en-
dure my lyfe dayes.

¶ The auctoz.

When I hadde receyued this letter
of Laureola I departyd to go to
Lereano, thynkyng then to haue
with me some company to ayde me in
the glozy of myne ambassade, & to enco-
rage therby Lereano, I callyd then to
E.iii. me

me, þ̄ gretteſt enemyes þ̄ we had before,
as cōtentaciō, hope, reſt, pleyſour myrth
and comforte. I toke theſe with me for
feare that þ̄ keepers of the priſone wolde
reſiſt & defende me the entre. Wherefore
I thought to go in orde of batayle: and
when I came to the heyght of an hygh
hyll, I had a ſyghte of the priſon, then
I dyſplayed my baner all of grene, ſo
that our enemyes toke them to þ̄ flyght
in ſuche wyſe that he that fledde faſtyſt
thought to be next the ieoperdye. And
when Acreano harde this grete rumour
not knowyng what it was, he came to
a wyndow of the towre, and ſpake moze
with wekenes of ſpिरite, then with hope
of ſocour, and when he ſaw me comyng
in batayll w̄ ſuche a goodly company,
then he knew what the mater ment, &
what for his feblenes, & for his ſodeyn
ioye, loſte his fealyng, and fell downe
in a trance in the howſe, where he was.
And when I came to þ̄ ſtepyes wheron
I was wont to mount, Reſt, auauuncyd
to

to marche on befoze, who gaue clerenes
& chafyde away all the darkenes of the
towre, and when I came to hym & sawe
hym in that mortall maner, I feared I
came sone inough to wepe, and to late
to gyue hym remedy. Then with great
dyligence, hope stept to hym, & cast a
lytle water of comeforte in his face, and
therwith he returnyd agayne to hym
selfe, and the better to strength hym, I
delyuered hym Laureolas letter. And
all the season that he redde it, all suche
as I brought with me procured for his
helth, Myrth gaue ioy to his harte: rest
comforyd his spyrytes, hope brought
hym in to good remembrance. Conten-
tacio clerpd his eyn. Comeforte resto-
ryd his helthe and strength. Pleasure
quyckenyd his vnderstandyng: they
treatyd hym in suche wyse, that when
he hadde redde euer the letter, he was
all hole, as though he hadde neuer felte
passyō, and when he saw that my dyl-
gence gaue hym lyberte, he toke me of-

ten tymes in his armes, offeryng hym
selfe to be myne, and thought that but
a small rewarde, for the deseruyng of
my seruyce. His offers were to me in
suche maner, that I wylt not how to
answer hym, as I ought to haue done
accozdyng to his degre, and after that
many thynges were passyd bytwene
hym & me, he determyued to go to the
courte and fyrst we went to a towne of
his, and tarped there a certayne season,
to recouer his strength, and to newe
aparell hym agaynst he shuld go to the
courte. And when he saw his tyme, he
set forth on his iourney. And when his
comynge was knowen in the courte, ma-
ny great lordes and yong courtiaers
went to receyue hym, but he toke moze
consolacion of his secreete glozy, then of
all the open honour that was done to
hym. Thus he was nobly accompanyd
to the palace, and his duetie done to the
kyng, he kyst the hand of Laureola,
wherein was many thynges to be no-
tyd

tyd, and specyally to me who knew the
mater bytwene them. The one was
ouercome with trybulacion, the other
faylyd coldur. He wylt not what to say,
noz she to aunswere, suche foze hathe
the passyons of loue, alwayes it dra-
weth the wyt & dyscreciō downe vnder
his baner, & which I saw there by clere
experpence. And though that no man
saw ther demanour, noz hadde no sus-
pecte bytwene them: yet Persio sonne
to the lozde of Gania behelde them, and
was as farre in loue, as Lereon was.
And by reasone that all gelous suspecte
disozdereth all thynges secrete, he regar-
ded ouer ther wordes & cōtenaūces, in so
moch & he gaue full credēce to his own
suspect, & gaue not alonely fayth to & he
saw, & which was nothyng, but also bele-
uyd it surely in his imagynaciō, & with
& euyl thought of ielosy, wout delibera-
cyō oꝝ cōsail, he fydyng the kyng in a
secrete place, sayd to hym (assermyng &
Laureola & Lereano lound to gether)

E. v.

how

how that he hadde seen them together,
druerce nyghtes, when the kynge was
a bedde, sayng how he shewyd this for
the honour and seruyce, that he bare to
the kynge. The kynge then beyng soze
troubelyd wth those newes was in great
doubte, and studyed long or he was de-
termynyd to aunswere. And after he
had slept on y^e mater, he bileued Persius
sayeng to be true, consydering his ver-
tue and auctoryte, he wolde shew no
thyng, but of trougt. Then the kynge
determinyd what he wolde doo, and
therupō he sent his doughter Laureola
in to a towre in to a prysone, and then
sent for Persio, & commaundyd hym to
accuse Lereano of treason, accor^ding to
his lawes, of the which cōmaūdemēt he
was soze abashyde, but the heate of the
busynes enfor^syd hym to graūte it. Thē
he acceptyd the kynges cōmaūdeiment
and sayde, howe he thankyd god that
he was offeryd suche a case, y^e his han-
des myght bere wytnes of his bounte &
uirtue

vertue: and bycause that in Macedonia
suche deades were accustomed to be
done, by wrytyng & not in the kynges
presence by wordes, therfore Persio sent
a wrytyng to Lereona wth suche reasons
as ensue.

Persius wrytting to Lereano.

Syn that of good workes, proce-
deth vertuous renome and fame
it is a iuste thyng that euylnes
be chastysed, to thentent that vertue
maye be maynteynyd, and with great
dylgence bounte ought to be exaltpd.
So that the enemyes therof, when ther
wylfull operacions be to y^e cōtrary, they
ought to be cōstrayned to vse bountie:
foz dread and feare of punyshement. I
say this to the Lereano, foz the payne
that thou shalt receyue, foz the trespase
that thou hast cōmyttd, shalbe a chas-
tysement to the, and an ensample foz all
other to feare, foz if such thynges shuld
be pardonyd, and left vnponyshed, by-
lany shuld then be no lesse fauoyd in
them

them þ' do euyl, then noblenes in them þ'
be good. Certainly euyl hath it pꝛofited
þ', all the gentlenes & honeste of thy ly-
nage, who gaue the ensample to folow
bounte, and thou folowest the woꝝkes
of treasone, thy pꝛogenitours bones
wold be redy to ryse agaynst the yf they
knew how thou defoilyst (with suche
errour) they? noble dedes, therfoꝛe now
is the tyme come that soꝛ thyne euyl
deades, thou shalt receyue the ende of
thy lyfe, and defoyll thy fame. Cursyd
be all suche as thou arte, that canst not
chose an honourable lyfe, and thou not
regardynge thy seruyce noꝛ duetie to
thy kyng. To be so bolde woute shame
as to falle in loue with Laureola the
kynges doughter, with whome with
oute shame, thou hast spoken dyuerce
tymes aloone, after the kynges beyng
a bedde not folowynge the clere lynage,
by which reasone I appeale the as a
traytour, and vpon that quarel I thynk
to sle the, oꝛ els to dyue the oute of the
felde

feld, ozels to cause the confesse with thy
mouth my sayeng to be true, the which
as long as the world endureth shalbe
an ensample of my trowth. And thus I
leue, trustyng to proue thy falsenes, and
to verify my treuth. chose thou the ma-
ner of our batayll & armur, and on the
kyniges part I shal make the assurance

The aunswer of Aereano.

Mye shalbe my mylfortune then
the malyce withoute the fault &
thou chargest me withall of fal-
senes shal gyue the payne by iustice ac-
cording to thy deserte: if thou were as
discrete as thou art euyll, in eschewing
of such perels. First thou shuldest haue
known myne entension oz thou had-
dest gyuen sentence vpon my woꝝkes,
but nowe I knowe by the that thou se-
myst better then thou arte in dead. I
thoughte surely to haue comoned with
the as with my frende, haupnge confi-
dence in thy vertue, but nowe thou
shewst

shewyst thyne euyl condicion, lyke as
here befoze thou shewydyst thy bountie
with frendly amyte, in lykewyse now
þ̄ discouerest thy falshod, wherfoz þ̄ cau-
sest enuyte bytwene vs: oꝛ I may say by
reason, enemy to thy selfe foꝛ by thyne
owne witnesse thou leuyest the good me-
moꝛy of thy life with infamy, and shalte
ende thy life w̄ shame. why hast thou
put thy serpentyn tongue vpon Laure-
ola, whose alonely bounte suffiseth, that
if bounte were losse throughout all the
worlde, it myght be recoueryd & founde
in her. Thou mayntaynyst a celre false-
hodde, and I shall defend a iust cause,
and shall delyuer & discharge her fro all
fawtes and shall charge thyn honour
w̄ shame. I will not aunswere thyne
vnumesurable wordes: foꝛ I repute it a
more honest way, to vanquysh the with
my handes rather then to satisfie the w̄
wordes. I desyre no thyng, but alonely
to come to the case to trye our debate.
Thou accusyst me of treason afferming
how

how I haue ben dyuerce tymes in the
secrete chamber with Laureola after
kynges beyng a bedde & at his rest af-
well to the one as to the other. I saye
falsely lvest; yet I denye not but that I
haue regardyd her beawtie wth an amo-
rouse desyre. But though the force of
loue ozdze the thoughtes, yet y^e vertue
of trouth causyth, clenlynnes of honeste,
I wold be glad to haue her fauour, but
foz none euyll thought. And mozeouer
I shall defende the quarel, and say that
I alone neuer enteryd in to her secrete
chamber, noz neuer spake wordes of
loue to her: so that when the entension
synneth not, the iudgement then shuld
alwayes be hole withoute defozmyte.
And sye the determynacion herof can
not be withoute deth of one of vs, and
not determynyd with our tonges, ther
foze lete vs leue raylyng wth our tonges
and abyde vpon the day of our sentence
the which I truste in god shalbe foz my
profyght, and hono^r to Laureola, and
shame

Shame and rebuke to the, bycause thy
dedes of malyce: and I to defende by
reasone, the trowgh shalbe determyned
by iustice. The armure that we shall
chose shalbe all peces acorpyng to the
custome of our countrey. Our horses
bardyd with lyke speres and swordes,
and with any other armure oꝝ wepyn
that is vsyd, with the whiche I truste
to flee the oꝝ to cause the to denye, that
thou halt sayde, oꝝels to chase the oute
of the felde.

The auctoꝝ.

Thus euyll fortune, enuyous, of
the welth & prosperite of Lereano,
vsyng againste hym her naturall
chaungeale condycion, she gaue hym a
toꝝne, whan she saw hym in his moste
prosperite, whose mysfortune to behold,
was great passion, and constreynd the
heres to payne. Thus leuig to speke of
this trouble. After Lereano had aun-
swered Persius letter, the kynge kno-
wpyng þe couenaut of this batayll, assu-
ryd

tyd the feld, assignyd out the place
where the batayll shuld be determyned
& all thynges necessary was ordeyned,
that perteyned to suche deades, accor-
dyng to the custome of Macedonia.
And on a day þe kyng went to his stage,
and the knyghtes came in to the felde,
eche of them accompanyd as they were
fauoured, and as they hadde deserued,
sauyng the equalnes of bothe pertyes
honours. They were lyke brought in to
the felde, so they (after theyꝝ reuerence
done to the kyng) ranne eche at other,
so that by the force of theyꝝ strookes,
they shewed the vertue of theyꝝ hartes.
And theyꝝ speres broken at theyꝝ fyrste
encoûter: then they dꝛwe out theyꝝ swoꝝ-
des, and fought so fercely, that it was
incruayll to behold theyꝝ deades and
compassyon for that they sufferyd. And
to be bꝛefe in this history, Acreano in
gyuyng his heuy strokes at a stroke
strake of Persus ryght hande, so that
it fell to the erth, swoꝝde and all. When

f.

Acre

Lereano saw, how that Persyo had lost
þ best parte of his defence (sayde) Pers-
syo to thentent that thy lyfe pay not his
duetye, for thy falseyes, ceny that thou
haste sayd. Then Persyo sayde: do as
thou oughtest to do, though myne arme
fayle me to defēde, yet my harte faylyth
not to dye. Lereano heryng þ aunswere
pꝛeasyd to hym, and gaue hym many
sharpe & heuy strokes. And when Pers-
syus frendes sawe hym in ieoperdy of
his lyfe they requyꝝd the kyng to caste
downe his batone, assuryng hym that
Persyo shuld be bzought forth to abyde
suche iugement as it shuld please hym,
yf he were found culpable and gyltye.
To the which requeste the kyng cōdis-
cendyd, & so they were depertyd, wher
with Lereano was sore agreuyd, & not
withoute good reason. For he hadde
great meruayll, why the kyng delte so
with hym. Then they were conueyede
oute of the feld with lyke seremonyes:
how be it, they were not lyke in fame &
honour

honour. So they were brought to their
lodgynges and there tarped all nyght.
The next day in the mornynge, Acreano
determinyd to go to þe palace to desyre
the kyng in pꝛesence of all his courte to
restore his honour, & to do vpon Persio
ryghtwyse iustyce. But Persio, who
was malycyous of his condycion, and
sharpe wytted, to the intent þe he myght
by some meanes attayn to his purpose,
whyls þe Acreano spake wth the kyng, he
callyd to hym .iii. false men lyke to his
own condycions, & toke theyꝛ othe that
they shuld shew them. To þe which they
agreyd. Then he gaue to them moche
money, so that they shuld say, and swere
to the kyng that they had sene Acreano
spekyng wth Laureola in places suspect,
and in tyme dyshonest: which they pꝛo-
feryd to afferme, and to swere it, to the
lesyng of theyꝛ lyues. I leue to speke of
the doloure that Laureola sufferyd, by
cause the passyon shuld not trouble so
my wytte, but that I myght make an

ende of þe I haue begonne, for I haue
no lesse payne to remembre her sorowe
beyng absent, then as thought I were
present, and saw it with myne eyen: but
I wyl to me to Lereano, who had more
sorow for her prysenement, then gloze
of his victorie. When he knew that the
kyng was ryson he went to the palayce,
& in the presence of the knyghtes of the
courte he sayd to the kyng as folowith
¶ Lereano to the kyng.

Sir of suertie with better wyl I
wold haue sufferyd the chastise-
ment of your iustice, then þe shame
to haue come to your presence, if I had
not attempned yesterday the better of
the batayll: The which yf ye had taken
well, I shulde haue bene clene quyte &
delyueryd fro the false accusacion of
Perspo, for in the syght of euery man
I shuld haue gyuen hym the rewarde,
that he deseruyd, It is great dyfference
to haue power to do a thyng, and to do
it in deade. Great auantage ye shewyd
hym

hym, & reason why, I can nother thynke
noꝝ imagine. ye comaſſyde to deperte
vs, and ſpecially ſyn our debate tochyd
your ſelfe ſonere, as he that ſhuld deſy-
re to be reuengyd for the loue of Laure-
ola, lyke apytfull father, and I beleue
well that as now ye be well ſatyſfied of
her dycharge and ignorance. And ſyꝝ yf
ye dyd it for compaſſion, ye hadde of
perſpꝝ, ye ought as iuſtely to haue re-
gardyd myne honour, aſwell as his
lyfe, ſeyng I ame your naturall ſubget.
And yf ye dyd is by reaſone of the impoꝝ-
tunate ſuēt of ſome of his frendes, ye
ought aſwell to haue remembryde the
ſeruyce that I & myne haue done you,
ſyn ye know w̄ what conſtaūce of hart,
many of them in dyuerſe bateyls haue
loſte in your ſeruyce theyꝝ lyues, which
none of them haue done, the.iii. parte.
Therfoꝝe ſyꝝ I requyre you that by iu-
ſtice ye wyl ſatyſfye the honour that I
haue wonne w̄ my handes. Syꝝ kepe
your lawes if ye thynke to conſerue

I.iii.

your

your naturall subiectes; noꝝ syꝝ con-
sent not, that so false a man, shuld lyue
that kepith so euyl pꝛeemynence of his
pꝛedecessours, to the entent that his
benygne do not corrupte them; that be
his parte takers. Certaynly I am cul-
pable in no thyng, but in that I haue
bene so good a frende, to my wrongfull
accuser, and if foꝝ this I haue deserued
payne, lette me haue it, yet my clere in-
nocency shall assyꝛe me. I haue conser-
uyde his amptꝛ, beleuyng he had bene
good, and not iudgyng his euyl noꝝ
falsenes. If ye suffre hym to serue you,
I say he shalbe the beste seruaunt to
make dyscoꝝde and lyes, that shalbe in
all your courte. Syꝝ remember in your
selfe how ye be bounde to do ryght to
euery man. Wherfoꝝe determyne this
cause with pꝛudence, and gyue sentence
with your acostumed iustice. Syꝝ the
thynges of honour ought to be clere,
and if ye perdone hym foꝝ any request:
though yt be by the pꝛyncipall of your
realme

realme, oꝛ foꝛ any other thyng at your
pleasur, I wyl not then abyde þe iudge-
ment of dyuerce of your mē, to be taken
as clene dyscharged. Foꝛ thought some
beleue the trouth by reasone, yet some
wylbe troubelyd, and say the worste.
And though in all your realme, the
trouth be not knowen, yet comenly the
fame of the trouth by reasone of fouour
of the partye wyl not be boꝛne farre of:
so þe I can not be clene dyscharged out
of all mennys fantasyes, yf this man
scape withoute open punyshemēt. Syr
foꝛ goddessaie sette myne honour with
oute any dysputacion, & as foꝛ my lyfe
oꝛdeyne at your pleyfoure:

The auctoꝛ

The sayng of Lereano, the kyng
gaue good entent, and aunswered
that he wold take counsayll what
was best to do, and sayde that in suche
a case delybercion wold be taken, oꝛ any
sentence shuld be geyuyn. Of trouth the
kynge's aunswere, was not so swete, as

J.iiii.

it

it ought to haue bene: for by that I saw
of the kyng hadde put Laureola at her
lybertie, Lereano hadde enduryde no
trouble. For he thought to serue her, for
all þe he was reputyd culpable, though
his entent were clere withoute faulte.
Thus the kyng to eschewe the rumour
and besynes that was lykely to fall be-
twene Lereanos frendes & Persius, com-
maundyd Lereano to go to a towne of
his owne, a. ii. leages fro þe court callyd
Susa, and there to tary tyll he had set
a dyrection in þe mater. The which Lere-
ano dyde with a ioyful hart, thynkyng
that Laureola was clerely dyschargyd,
whiche was þe thyng he mooste desiryd.
But then Persyo who alwayes traue-
lyde to offend and to shame his honour
and to defende it by malyce, he sente for
ii. of his complyses, or Laureola was
delyuerede and sayde to them: That
eche of them a parte shulde go to the
kyng, and of them selfe to shew hym,
how that the accusacion of Persio was
trew

trew and to bere wytnes that they had
seen. Hereafter dyuerce tymes speke with
Laureola aloone suspyciously. The
which wytnes and affyrmacion, when
the kyng hard it, he was soze trowbelyd
therwith, and examynyd eche of them a
parte by subtile & sharpe perswasions
to se yf they any thyng swaruyd in ther
sayenges. But they were such persons,
that if a man shulde haue wastyd all
his lyfe in falsenes, coude not be lyke
them. They were so sure of theyr woꝝ-
des, the moze they were examynyde the
surelyer they foꝛtesyed theyr false lyes.
So that therby the kyng gaue to theyr
false sayenges, fayth and beleue. And
by reasone of theyr informaciō, þe kyng
reputyd Persyo foꝛ trew seruant and
beleuyd that it was moze by reasone of
his fortune, rather then by his vntrew
quarell, that he lost the batayll. O Per-
syo better it hadde ben foꝛ the to haue
sufferyd the deth at one tyme, then to
deserue so many dethe. So the kyng in

f.v.

purpose

purpose to punysh þe innocensy of Laureola, by reasone of the treason of the false wytnes, ordeynyed þe his doughter Laureola shuld haue the sentence of iustyce. The whiche when it came to the knowledge of Aereano, he was therewith nere oute of his wytte, and with great fury and passion desperate, determyned to go to the courte to delyuer Laureola, and to see Perspo, or els to lese his owne lyfe in the quarell. And when I saw hym wylling to folow that fantasye, wherein was more perell then hope. Then I desyred hym to worke sagely, and so by reasone of the alteration that he was in, he was in a great perplexite. And when I saw hym stande in suche a dysmayde trance, I thought then to serue hym with my counsayll, to the intent he shuld not do that thyng in haste, wherby to repent hym after. And consyderynge the way that I thought moste sure, I sayd to hym thus.

The auctoz to Aereano.

Sir I desyre you to be dyscrete to
thentent that I may prayse your
wytte, that ye may so deale to re-
medy your euill, that ye may be ioyfull
as I desyre, and. praysed as ye deserue.
This I say for the sage pacience that
thou shuldest shew in the tyme of thyne
aduersyte: for though I se well & thyne
vnderstandpng be occupped wth passions
yet thou shuldest consyder what thou
wylt do, and with what dyscrete know-
ledge. Thou shuldest rather folow my
symple counsayll, then to put to execu-
tion thy foresayde wyl. Thus thou
shuldest do by thyne owne naturall in-
tysemente. Soche haue I studyed on
that thou oughtest to do in this thy
greate fortune: And accordng to my
power iudgement. The fyst thyng to
accomplysh it for the, to take reste, the
lack therof troublcth the in thy present
case. And after myne opynion thy fy^{ste}
determinacio shalbe the laste to put to
execucion: for as thyne enterpryse is
great

great and weyghly, accordyng ther to,
demuer delyberacion shulde be deter-
mynde or yt were executyd all wayes
in a thyng doughtfull. The most surest
way wolde be taken. And yf thou be
disposede to flee Persyo, or to Delyuer
Laureola. fyyste thou muste cōsider by
what wayes thou mayste do it, & scape
away with both your honours, for her
honour is moze to be estemyd, then the
lyfe. For yf thou canste not accōplyshe
thyne enterpryse, thou shalte leue her
cōdempnyd, and thyselfe dyshonouryd.
Thou knowyst that men woikyth, and
fortune iudgith. And if thynges passe
well, then they be praysed: yf they for-
tune euyll, then they be dysprayed, and
taken for euyll. If þe Delyuer Laureola
thou shalte be callyde valyant: yf thou
assay and fayle, then þe shalt be reputyd
afole. Tary here a .ix. dayes, for then
shalbe executiō of the sentence agaynst
Laureola. In the meane season let vs
proue & assay all other remedies, that
any

any hope is in. And if we fynde no re-
medy in that, then execute thyne entent,
though thou lese thy lyfe therby, yet it
shalbe to thyne honour and fame. One
thyng thou shuldeste prouyde for, or
thou begynne, I putte case thou had-
deste now broken the prisone, & taken
oute therof Laureola, and carped her
away, into thyne owne lande: yet she
shulde be condempnyd and reputyd cul-
pable, and wher soeuer thou shuldest
sette her, yet she shuld suffre payne, the
which then shuld be gretter euyl, then
y^e fyrst. Therfore the best way as semeth
me is to do after this maner. I wyl go
in thy name to Galleo, brother to the
quene, who for parte desyreth y^e delyue-
rance of Laureola, asmoche as thy selfe
doste. And I shall shewe hym what is
thyne entent: and desyre hym (to the
entente he sholde bere no charge nor
blame) that he wold be redy with a cer-
tayn number of men, the same day that
thou shuldest do thyne enterpryse, that
yf

yf thou fortune to gette Laureola oute
of prifone. Then to put her in to his
handes in the prefence of eury man, in
wytnes of his ignorance, and of thy
clennes, and fo he to receyue her tyll the
kyng haue prouyd the trowth in every
thyng, and to kepe her in his caftell:
wherby this busines may come to a
good ende: but as I haue fayde this
way muſte be þ laſte ſhore ancre. Ther
foze fyrſte I wyll go to the court, and
ſpeke with the cardynall of Gaula and
w other lordes & prelates that I can
fynde ther. And I ſhall deſyre them to
ſpeke to þ kyng, deſyryng hym to grant
Laureola her lyfe. And yf we fynde no
remedy in this, then I wyll deſire the
quene that ſhe with all other ladyes &
honneſt women of her courte and of the
citie, to go to the kyng, and deſyre per-
done foꝝ her doughter. To whoſe we-
pynges and petitions, I can not beleue
that pitie ſhalbe denyed. And yet if that
can not auayll: then I ſhall cauſe Lau-
reola

reola to wyte to the kyng her father,
certifyeng hym of her innocency, and
if all these wayes wyl not serue: then
shall I offre to the kyng that thou shalt
fynde a persone that shall do deades of
armes agaynst those.iii.false witnesses
and if none of these wayes can pꝛeuaill
Then pꝛoue thy strength, and therby
peraduenture thou shalt fynde y pitie
in the kyng that thou sekest for. But
yet oꝛ I deperte me thynkyst y shuldest
wyte to Laureola in strengthynge of
her feare, with suertye of her lyfe. The
whiche thou mayst well do: syn heuyn
dysposith, that is wrought vpon the
erthe it can be none other wyse, but that
god wyl receyue y wepynges of inno-
centes, and thy iuste petycions.

¶ The auctoꝛ.

So Lereano swaruyde no poynt
fro myne aduylse, bycause he
thought it the moſte ſure way,
foꝛ the expedicion of his purpose. How-
beit his harte was not ſure: foꝛ he
doughted

doughtyd lest the kyng in his ire shuld
haue gyuen sentence vpon Laureola on
the day came. How be it by the lawes of
the lande she shulde haue .ix. dayes re-
spyght. Though his harte fearyd this
it was no meruail: for they that be true
louers, all þ is contrary to them, they
lightly beleue it. And that they desyre
most, they thinke them selfe therof most
vncertayne. How be it he concludyd to
wryte to Laureola with greate dought,
that she wold not recyue his letter. The
tenour wherof was as folowith.

The letter of Lereano to
Laureola.

Rather wolde I put my handes to
rydde myne owne life, then to be-
gyn to wryte yf I knewe that my
wozkes were cause of your prisone, as
moch as myne euyl fortune is, þ which
is to me so contrary þ it can not cause
me to dye well woute I may saue you.
The whiche I purpose to do. And if I
dye in that quarell (ye shalbe delueryd
quyte

quite oute of pꝛesone, and then I clene
rydde fro all my mysaduentures: and
so the deth of one shalbe cause of.ii. li-
berties. I requyre you take me not as
your enemy, foꝛ any thing that ye suffre
syn my merites are nat the cause, but ra-
ther it is myne euell foꝛtune. And ye
may well beleue that though your do-
lours be neuer so great, yet I fele moꝛe
toꝛment in þ̄ thinkyng vpon them, then
ye do in the suffrynge. Wolde to god
that I hadde neuer knowen you, and
yet therby I shulde haue lost the sight
of you: the which to me is the gretest
welth of this woꝛlde. I shulde haue ben
ryght happy, and I hadde neuer sene
noꝛ harde, of the dolour that ye suffre
and I ame so accustumpd to lyue in he-
uynes that I ame fayne to take coun-
saill foꝛ your cause: but in the payne þ̄
I fele now I take no counsaill, noꝛ I
haue no rest, noꝛ my harte can not be
quyt foꝛ the payne that ye suffre: feare
not the de th, foꝛ my pꝛopꝛe handes shal

G. i. saue

saue you therfro . I shall serche all the
remedies that I can fynde to apeace y
kynges ire. And if y fayllet, rust in me
that for your liberte. I shall deale in
such wyse, that as long as the world en
dureth, there shalbe remembrance and
ensample of hardy valiantnes. For this
that I say is no great thyng to be done
for beside your excellent valeure . The
cruell Justice of your prysone causeth
my hardynes, who can resist my strength
syn I haue it by your meanes. What
thing is it that the harte dare not enter
pryce, your beaute being fixed therein.
Ther is allonely but one euyl in your
saluation, the which may be bought w
an easy pryce accor dyng to your deserte
that is, losynge of my lyfe. And though
I so do it is but a smalle losse, so it may
delyuer you . With my good hope,
strengthen your febler es : for and ye shuld
sette your thoughtes vpon al icoperdes
ye myght sone therby ende your life :
wherby .ii. greate inconuenientes shuld
ensue

ensue. The fyrst and principall is your
deth. The.ii. is I shuld the be preuatyd
fro the gretest honour that any man
myght haue, as in that I shulde not
then saue you. Lady, beleue in my woꝝ-
des and trust my promyse, do not as
some other women do, to take great
feare: for a small cause. If your femy-
nyne condycion accuse you with feare:
Then lete your discrecion strength you
agayne, which ye may well do by myne
assurance: and bycause this that I say
shalbe wel prouyd. Therfore I requyre
you beleue me, I wyte not to you at
length as I wold do, but I shall proue
to further your lyfe.

The auctoz.

Whyle Lereano wrote his letter I
made me redy to deperte and recep-
uyd his letter, and made all the
dyllygence that I coulde, tyll I came to
the courte and dyd my deuour that in
me was to haue spoken with Laureola,
to haue gyuen her some comefozte: but

B.ii.

I was

I was denyed to se her. Then I was
enfourmyde of the chamber wher she
laye, wher was a wyndow with a great
grate of irone. And at nyghte I came
thyther, & wrappyd the letter together,
and sette it on a spere poynte, & so with
moche trauaill I dyd cast the letter in
at the wyndowe in to her chamber, and
þ next moynyng I came thyder agayne,
and saw the wyndow open, and I saw
wher Laureola stode, but the latyse was
so thicke, þ I cowlde haue no perfyght
syght of her. fynally I apzochyd neter
to the wyndowe, and when she saw me
marchyng for by þ wyndowe. She cast
sodenly oute a letter, withoute spekyng
of any woꝛde: bycause of the pzease that
was nere hande. And as I was goyng
away, she sayd: Take there the reward
of the pite that I haue shewed, and by
cause her keepers were nere aboute her
I durst make none aunswere: but her
woꝛdes dyd put me in to suche passion,
that who so hadde folowyd me by the
trace of

trace of my wepyng, myght well haue
found me out. The tenour of her letter
folowith. ¶ Laureolas letter to Lerea.

I Can not tell the Lereano, how to
I answer, and where as euery man
lawdith pite and reputith it for a
vertue, and in me it is taken for a vice.
And accordyng therto I ame chastysed,
I do as I ought to do accordyng to
pitie: & I haue as I deserue accordyng
to my myffortune. For surely thy for
tune nor thy woꝝkes is no cause of my
presone, nor I complayne not of the nor
of none other persone luyng, but
alonely vpon my selfe, who to kepe the
fro the deth, charge my selfe culpable,
howbeit, this compassyon that I haue
of the is moze paynefull, then charge.
I do remedy as innocent, and yet I
ame punyshed as culpable. How be it,
moche moze pleaseth me this presone
beyng withoute errour, then to be at
liberte, & infectyd therw. And though
yt be paynefull to suffre, yet I ame

easlyd agayne that I haue not deseruyd
it. I ame she that amonge all lyuyng
creatours, ought leste to lyue, without
the kynge saue me. I hope vppon no
thinge but deth: for yf thou delyuer me,
or any of thine, in what so euer maner
it be, I shalbe dolorous. And yf thou
do not remedye me, I ame sure to dye:
and yf thou delyuer me and take me a-
waye I shalbe condemned as culpa-
ble. Therfore I requyre the to trauayll
to saue myne honoure and fame, ra-
ther then myne lyfe: for the one muste
ende, and the other wyl endure. As I
haue sayde, serche to apeace the furour
of the kynge my father: for otherwyle
I can not be saued without the destruc-
tion of myne honour. How be it, I re-
mytte all to thy good counsaile and ad-
uise. Thy wysdome can chose the beste
waye: thou mayste se the rewarde that
I haue for the fauoure, that I haue
Mewed the. I ame put in prisone where
as murderers were wonte to be kepte:
and

and I ame tyed with cherynes, and with
Sharpe tozmentes, my tendre fleshe is
tozmented, and with force of armes I
ame kepte, as though I hadde the force
and power to skape awaye. Thus deli-
cate is my sufferynge, and my paynes
so cruell, that besyde þe sentence of deth,
my father myght otherwyle haue take
vengeance vpon me, then to suffre me
to dye in this cruell prisō. I haue great
meruayle how of suche a cruell father,
shulde issue so pacyente a doughter: yf
I shulde be lyke hym in condicion, I
shulde not feare his iustice, syn he wyl
do it so vniustely. As to that touched
Persio I wyl make none aunswer, by-
cause I wyl not defyle my tongue, as
he hath done my fame and renowne. I
had rather he wolde reuoke and denye
his wordes that he hath sayde, rather
then he shuld dye for them: but what so
euer I say, determyne thy selfe as thou
lyste, thou mayest not erre in that thou
wylte do.

G.iiii. The

The Auctour.

Ryghte doughtious I was when I hadde receyued and redde the letter sent fro Laureola to Lereano, whether I shulde sende it to Lereano, or els kepe it styll, tyll I went my selfe. At last I determyned not to sende it for two consyderacyons and inconueniencies. The one was, I feared to put our secretes in perell of discoueryng by reason of puttyng truste of any meane messenger. The other was for feare lest the trouble that the letter shulde put hym vnto, shulde cause hym to execute his purpose in hast, befoze the tyme agreed betwene hym and me: and therby all myghte haue ben lost. So to tourne to my fyrst purpose: The fyrst day I came to the courte, I proued and tempted the wylles of suche, as I thought wolde be of our opinion, and I found none of the contrary desyre, sauyng the frendes of Persio, to whom me thoughte it but a folie to speake. And then I went to the
Car-

Cardynall, and desyred hym yf it wolde please hym to make supplicacion to the king for the life of his doughter Laureola. The which he grauntyd to do with no lesse loue and compassion, then I desired it. And so incontinent wdyuers other prelates and greate Lordes to gether, they wente to the kyng. Then the cardynall in hys owne name, and in all theyrs, sayd to the kinge as folowith

The cardynall to the kinge.

Sy it is not without reason that noble princes in tyme past ordeyned theyr counsaillors, to ordeyne by them what was to be done: wherby they found great profytte. And though counsaill were stablished for many goode causes, yet I fynde. vi. reasones that yf same law ought to be obserued. The fyrst is bycause that men may moche better order other mens maters, rather then theyr owne: for the harte of hym that the mater tochyth can not be withoute some ire, couetesnes, affection, or

G. v.

Desire

desire, or some other lyke condiciō. So
that he shall not determyne the cause,
as he ought to do. The .ii. is when
maters be pleatyed and arguyd: the
traugth is the better knowen. The .iii.
yf the counsaylours ordeyne iustly, and
bryng the mater well to passe: the glozy
and honour is to them that folowyth
suche counsayll. The .iiii. is yf by a
nother mannes counsayll the besynes
fayleth and takyth none effecte: yet he
that demaundeth the counsayll is oute
of blame & charge: and they that gaue
the counsayll muste bere the charge &
faulte. The .v. ys bycause good counsayll
often tymes assuryth thynges that be
doubtious. The .vi. is yf a man be
faulen in euyl fortune: yet in all aduer:
sites good counsayll putteth the pertye
in good hope. Certaynely syt it is but a
blynde counsayll, a man to counsayll
hym selfe, knowynge hym selfe in any
furour or passion. Therfore syt blame
ys not, though in the fercenes of your
ire

ire, we be come to trouble you: for we
hadde rather that ye shulde in your ire
repzehende vs for our comynge to you:
Then that after ye shulde repent you
and condempe vs, bycause we gaue you
no counsayll. Syz thynges done by
good deliberacyō and accoꝝd, procurith
profyt, and prayse to them that so doth:
And thynges done in hast & with fury,
repētance must make amendes. Suche
wyse and noble men as ye be, when they
shulde do any warke, fyrst they shulde
determyne, oꝝ they dyspose, aswell in
thynges present, as in thynges to come
and aswell in those thynges that they
hope to haue profyte by, as in those
thynges that they feare the contrary.
And if they fynde them selfe troublde
with any passion, tyll they be clerpd
therfro, they shulde gyue no sentence.
And yf they debate, and delaye ther
deades, then they do well: for in all
suche weighty maters, hast is daunge-
rouse, and tarynge is suretie. A wyse
man

man that wyll do iustly must thynke on
all these thynges, and oꝛ he do any
thyng, folow reasone, and establissh the
execucion honestly. It is the properte
of them that be discrete, to proue theyꝝ
counsailours, and not to determyne
vpon a lyght credence: And there as a
thyng semyth doubtfull, holde then
the sentence in balance: foꝛ all thynges
ys not of trouthe, that semyth to be true
The thought of the wyse man, now
agreeth & now demaundeth, and now
ordeyn, and all wayes cast in his minde
what may fall, and be ielous of his
fame, and kepe hym selfe fro erryng,
and foꝛ feare of fallynge therein wyll
remember that is past and take the best
therof, and ordeyne foꝛ the tyme pꝛesent
with a temperance, and to remember
what is to come, and in all these to take
aupsemente. Syꝝ all this that we haue
sayd is that ye shulde remember your
wysdome, and ordeyne your deades not
furiously: but lyke a wyse man, and
to me

toyne the force of your natural wysdome
against the accydent of your ire. **Sy?**
we haue knowlege that ye wyll con-
demne your doughter Laureola to deth
yf her bountie, and goodnes haue not
deseruyde to be iustifyde: Then of
trouthe, ye are not ryghtwyle iudge:
neuer trouble your glozvous fame w
suche a iudgement. And we put case
though she had deserued this punyshe-
ment, yet in your so doyng, ye shalbe
defampde and reputyde rather for a
cruell father, then a ryghtwyle kynge.
ye gyue credence to. iiii. euyll men, & of
shamefull conuersacion, certaynly as
good reasone hadde it bene, to haue
shor tyd theyr lyues, as to haue gyuen
credence to theyr wytnes. They be men
soze defampd in your courte, for they
conferme them selfe to all iniquite.
They glozifye them selfe in theyr false
reasones making, & in the begylynges
that they make. And sy? why gyue you
moze fayth to theyr informacion, rather
then to

then to þe iudgemente of god, the which
was clerely sene in the batayll bytwene
Persio & Lereano. Be not the shedder
of your owne blodde: for then of all
men, ye shalbe dyspraised and dyspyled:
blame not the innocent for the counsayll
of the enuyous. And yf ye thynke that
for all the reasons that we haue sayde,
that Laureola ought not to be sauyd:
yet for that ye ought to do for vertue,
& bycause ye be bound of your royalnes
for the seruice that we haue done you,
in our most humble wyse: we requyre
you to haue mercy of her lyfe. And by-
cause that fewe wordes then we haue
spoken shuld suffice to your clemency,
to conuerte you to pytie. Therfore we
wyl saye no more, but that ye wyl
remember how moche better it is that
your ire shuld peryshe, rather then your
noble fame.

¶ The kynges aunswere.

Syrs I repute me well counsayld
by you if I were not more bound
to

to punyſhe, then to perdone : ye nede
not ſhew me the reaſone, how that great
prynces ought to receyue conuſayll, as
in that and in other thynges that ye
haue ſhewed, I knew them ryght well,
but ye know well, when the harte is
chargyd with paſſione, then is it locked
fro herynge of any counſayle and in þ
tyme, the fruteſul wordes, to mytigate
the paſſion of ire, cauſeth it the ſorer to
encreaſe bzinging to the memozy the
cauſe therof, wherfore I ſay yf I were
quyte for that impedymment, I thynke
then I ſhuld diſpoſe, and ordeyn ſagely
for the deth of Laureola the whiche I
will ſhewe, ſhe hathe deſeruyd by iuſt
cauſes determyned acor dyng to honour
and iuſtice, and yf her errour ſhulde be
leſte unpunniſhed, I ſhulde then be no
leſſe culpable, then Lereano. As to
chyng my diſhonour and ſhame, yf it
were publiſhed that I ſhulde perdone
ſuch a caſe, of my neighbours I ſhuld be
diſpraiſed, and of myne owne ſubgettes
diſobeyed

disobeyed, and of euery man smally este-
med. And also I might well be accused
þæt I haue euil conserued the generosite
of my predecessours. And this faulte
myght be so far esteemed, that it might
spotte & defowle the fame of myne an-
cestours passed, & blemish þæt honour of
them that be present, and steyne þæt blud
of them that be to come: for one spotte
in our lignage, myght confounde all
our generacion. The pardonyng of
Laureola shuld be cause of other great
euils, the whiche shulde folow by reaso-
of my pardonyng: wherfore I hadde
rather to cause feare, by reason of my
crueltie, then to cause boldnes to do euil
by reason of my pitie. And in my so do-
ing I shalbe esteemed as a kinge ought
to be, by reason of doing iustice. Be-
holde how many reasons there be, that
shlude lede, þæt she ought to haue sentence
ye knowe well, our lawes hath stablis-
shed, that a woman accused in such cau-
ses shuld suffre deth, and ye se well, how
it were

it were better for me to be called a kyng
in mynystrynge iustice then to perdone
the culpable. And it ought well to be no-
ted & in stede of consernyng the lawe, if
I do breke it my selfe, & whiche I ought
not to do, then I cōdemne my self. The
righte waye oughte equally to be kept
& obserued: for the hart of a iuge ought
not to be mouede for fauoure, for loue,
nor couetyse, nor for none other accidēt:
folowing the right iustyce is laudable.
And yf it be fauourable, then it is ab-
horred. Iustice ought neuer to go oute
of the ryght way, syne it is cause of
so moche goodnes. It canstith feare to
them that be euyll, and it susteyneth
them that be goode. It pacefyeth all
differences: it determyneth al questions
it expelith all stryues and contentions &
it agreith all debates, it assurith the
wayes, it honourith the people, it fa-
uourith the small people, and of base
condicion, it byddilith the myghty men,
and to the comon weale, it is ryght pro-

¶

fytable

fytable. Then to conserue ſuch a welthe
and that the lawes ſuſteynyth it, It is
ryght that I ſhuld vſe iuſtice. yf ye de-
ſire ſo moch the helth of Laureola, and
prayſe ſo moche her goodneſſe, byn-
ge forth one witnes of her innocenſy, as I
haue. iiii. to charge her, then ſhe ſhall be
perdonyd with reaſone, and prayſed
with trouth. Alſo where as ye ſay that
I ſhulde gyue faith to the iudgemente
of god, alwell as to the wptnes of other
men: it is no meruayll thought I do
not ſo, for I ſe the wptnes certayne at
myne eye: and as for the iudgment is
not yet endyd, For thoughe Lereano
hadde the better of the batayll we may
iudge the myddes, but we know not
the ende. I will not aunſwere to al your
alegacyons and ſayenges, bycauſe I
wyl make no longe proces, and at the
ende ſende you away without hope. I
deſire moche to accept your requestes
bycauſe of your well deſeruyng therof:
and if I do not, yet I requyre you take
it for

it for none euyl, for ye ought no lesse to
desyre the honour of the father, then
the saluacion of his doughter.

¶ The Auctoz.

The desperate aunswere of þe kyng,
was to the herers great heuynes.

And when I saw that this remedy
was to me contrary, then I sought for
a nother way, trustyng that shulde be
moze profitable. And þe was I thought
to go to the quene that she shuld desyre
the kyng for the saluacyō of her dought-
ter Laureola. So I wente to her, who
was partaker of her doughters sorow.
And I founde her in an hall acōpanyd
with many noble ladvys and other, who
were suffycyente to haue atteygnyde
theyr desyres, other iuste or vniuste,
though the mttæer hadde ben neuer so
greate, yet theyr desyres ought not to
haue ben refused, bycause of þe auctozite
of the quene, who knelyd downe and
spake wordes to the kyng, aswel leueng
charge to hym for his ire, as also wor-

H. II.

des of

des of pittie to appeace hym. And she
shewed hym the moderacyon that a
kyng ought to haue, and reprehendyd
the perceuerāce of his ire: and shewyng
hym how he was a father, and allegyd
reasones ryght dyscrete to note and full
of sorow: sayng, that if he wolde nedes
execute his cruell iudgemente, to do it
rather vpon her selfe (seuyng great parte
of her yeres were passyd) then vpon
Laureola in her yonge age, aprouyng
that by her owne deth, the fame of the
iudge shulde be sauyde, and the lyfe of
her that is iudgyd, and the mynd of the
desyzer fulfilled. But the kyng styll
was indurate in his fyrst purpose. All
the quenes rasones could not serue nor
yet her bytter wepynges. And therewith
the quene went in to her chamber with
small strength sore wepyng, and as
redy to dye. And when I sawe that the
quene could gette no grace of the kyng,
I went to the kyng withoute any feare
of his ferlines, and sayd: how he ought
to gyue

to gyue his sentēce with clere iustice, for
Acreano shulde fynde a man to fyght
agaynst all those, in false wytnesses,
or elles to do it his owne proper person,
and to pay them accordyng to theyr
desertes, and then god shall shew where
the ryght is. Then the kynge answered
me, that I shuld leue myne ambassade
for Acreano: sayeng how the heryng of
his name encreasyd his passyon and ire.
And when the quene knewe there was
no remedy to saue the lyfe of Laureola:
She went to the prisone and kyssed her
dyuerce tymes, and sayde, as folowith.

The quene to laureola.

Bountie, by malice accusyd. **V**ertue, by ire cōdemnyd. **N**ough
ter bozne of thy mother to sorow:
thou shalte dye withoute iustice, and I
must wepe by reason. Thyne unhappe
hath more pusanace to condemne the,
then thy innocēcy to saue the, without
the I shall lyue accompanied with do-
loures, the whiche in thy stede thou

H.iii.

Shalt

Thalt leue me. Thy deth shal ende. it. ly-
ues, the one is thyn without cause, and
myne by good reason and ryght. To
lyue after þ shuld be to me a sozer deth,
then that thou shalte receiue: for it is
farre greater tomente, to desyre the
deth, then to suffre it. Wolde to god,
thou myghtest be called the doughter
of the mother þ shuld dye, rather then
to be she þ I shuld se dye. Of euery mā
thou shalte be bewailed, as long as the
worlde endureth: all that of the haue
any knowledge, wyl sette litle by this
realme, þ whiche thou shuldest enheryte
accoꝝyng to thy desertes: for all that þ
art fallen in to thy fathers displeasour,
yet all suche as knowith the affyrmyth,
that there is none in all this land that
deserue thy merytes: suche as be blynde
desyre to se þ: the doine desyreth to speke
with the: the powre and þ ryche to serue
þ, all the world is wel content with the,
þ arte be hatyd w no creature, but alo-
nely with Persio. yf I may lyue a sea-
son

stone, he shall receue for his demerites,
iuste rewarde: And thouhe I haue
noone other strength, but to desyre his
deth, and to be reuengyd of hym yf I
couelde: the euill will I bere hym, shuld
then soone be vtteryd. yet this can not
satisfye me: for I can not heale the do-
lour of the spotte of the execucion of the
vengeans. O my dere doughter thy ho-
nesty hath prouyd thy vertue. why doth
not the king gyue more credence, to thy
presence, then to the wytnes of thy false
enemyes. In thy wordes, deades, and
thoughtes, all wayes thou hast shewyd
a vertuous harte. Why then shulde
god suffre the to dye, I can fynde none
other cause, but by reason of my synnes
that I haue comytted, rather then for
any meryt of thy ryghtwisnes. I wold
my deades myght be coparyd to thyne
innocency. Dere doughter lyfte vp
thyne harte to heuyn, take no sorow, to
leue that must nedes ende, for that
thyng that is permanent I assure the

our lord god wyll that thou shalt suffre
as a martyr, to thentente y thou shalte
ioye in his beatitude. In me haue none
other hope, but that and I were worthy
to go thyther, as thou arte suer to go,
I wolde shortly bere the company.
Thynkyst thou not, that it is a harde
trouble to me to remember how many
supplicacions hathe ben made to the
kynges for thy lyfe, and yet they can not
obteyne. And at this houre, a sharpe
knyfe may rydde and make an ende of
thy lyfe, and therby leue the father in
faulte, and the mother in sorow, and the
doughter withoute helthe, & the realme
withoute an herytour. O the lanterne
of myne eyen, I say to the these feareful
wordes to the entent they shuld bryke
thyne harte a sonder: for I hadde rather
thou shuldest dye in my power by
sorow, then to se the dye by iustice: for
though I shuld shedde thy bludde, yet
my handes shulde not be so cruell, as is
the condicion of thy father. O virgyne
inmacu

immaculate syn I can not accomplishe
my desyre, and that I muste deperte
fro the: yet receyue the dolorous laste
kysynge and blyssyng of thy sorowfull
mother: And thus I wyll go fro thy
syght, and fro thy lyfe, & most desyring
to go fro myne owne lyfe.

¶ The Auctor

When the quene hadde endyde her
wordes she wolde not abyde the
aunswere of þe innocent her dough-
ter Laureola, bycause she wolde not
receyue doble sorow. Thus the quene
and suche lordes as were in her cōpany
departed, with the grettest lamētacions
that euer was made. And when she
came in to her chamber, she sent to Lau-
reola a messenger, aduyling her to
wryte to þe kyng her father. Thynkyng
that he wolde take moze compassion by
reasone of her piteous wordes, rather
then by the peticious of any other that
trauelyde for her liberte. Who at the
cōmaundemēt of her dolorous mother

H. b.

toke

toke penne and inke and wrote with
greater turbaciō, then hope of remedy.
Her letter specyfied as folowith.

The letter of Laureola
to the kynge

Dere father I vnderstande, that ye
haue gyuen sentence vpon me to
dye, and that the terme of my lyfe
shalbe accomplyshede within these .iii.
dayes, & I knowe well the innocentes
ought no lesse to feare theyr fortune,
then suche as be culpable to feare the
lawe. And syn it is so that my myssfor-
tune hath brought me in to this parell
that I ame in, and not for any defaute
that I haue done, the which lyghtly ye
mdght know, if the furour of your ire
wolde suffer you to se the trouth. ye are
not ignozante of the vertue that the
auncyante cronicles & hystories many-
festith of the kynges and quenes: fro
whome I do procede. Then why was
I bozne of suche a blodde that wyl by-
leue rather the false informacion, then
the

the bounte naturall. yf it please you to
see me, for your pleasur, ye may well do
it: But as toching iustice, ye haue no
cause therto. The deeth that ye will geue
me, though I refuse it for feare: yet by
reason of obedience I do consent therto,
as she that loupeth better to dye vnder
your obedyence, rather then to lyue in
your dyspleasure. Howbeit I requyre
you, or ye determyne, take good aduysse
for as sure as god is true I neuer dyd
thyng to deserue to suffre any payne.
But syr I say to you, it is as couenient
the pitie of the father, as the rygoure
of iustice. Without doubt I desyre
aswell my lyfe, because it togeth your
honour so nere, as I do, bycause it per-
tyneth to my selfe: for at the ende I
ame your daughter. Considre syr who
soeuer vsith crueltie, serchith for his
owne perell: moze surer it is to be be-
louyd, for vsynge of pitie and clemence
rather then to be fearyd by crueltie. He
that wyl be fearyd, muste feare. Cruell
kynges

kynges are of euery man behatyd, and
suche, some tyme in serchynge to be a-
benged, losyth them selfe: for theyr sub-
gettes rather desyre trouble & change of
the tyme, then the conseruacion of theyr
aistates. For good people feare suche
condicions in a pryncce, and suche as be
suell feare theyr cruell iustice: so that
therby often tymes, theyr owne ser-
uantes study to put them downe, and
to flec them: vsynge with them the same
condicion of cruelte, suche as they vsyd
them selfe before, and gaue them ex-
sample. Syr I say this bicause I desyre
to susteyne your honour and your lyfe.
Small hope your subgettes shall haue
in you so cruell against me: They shall
feare the same, and ther by haue you in
a meruelous suspecte, and he that is
not sure, can make no suretie. O how
frely delyuerd fro suche occasions are
those prynces, whose hartes are endeu-
red with clemencie and pitie. Theyr
naturall subgettes careth not to dye in
theyr

they? quarels, to saue them fro pereth:
They will wake all nyght, and defende
them on y day. Whore hope and strength
these benynge and pitifull kynges ha
ue, by reasone that they be belouyd of
they? people, then in the strenght of the
walles of they? stronge forteresses: And
other wyse, if the kyng be behayrd of
his subgiettes: if he hadde nede, they
that come most slackest to saue hym,
shall haue moste thanke of the people.
Therfore sy? regarde well what hurte
and daunger, crueltie causeth: and what
profyt gentlenes and pitie procureth:
Howbeit if ye thynke the opinyon of
your furour better than good counsaill
and naturall prudence, then vnhappy
is that Doughter to be borne, to byng
her fathers lyfe in to cōdiciō of slaunde
der prouyd with suche cruell deades.
Thus no man shall trust in you, nor ye
shall trust no man: for if men procure
your deth, ye can be in no suretie. And
the thyng that most greueth me is, in
guyngre

gryping sentence agaynst me, ye do
iustice against your owne honour, the
wiche all wayes shalbe reco:dyd, moze
foz the cause, then foz iustice in it selfe.
My blode shal occuppe, but a small
place, but your crueltie shal spzede ouer
all the yerth: ye shalbe callyd the cruell
father, and I the doughter innocent.
Foz syn god is iuste he shal clere my
trouth:foz I shalbe lefte w oute faulte,
when I haue recepyd the payne of
dethe.

CThe Auctoz.

When Laureola had endyd her let-
ter, she sent it to the kynge by one of
her keepers, who loued and fauou-
red her in suche wyse, & he wolde gladly
she had bene at her libertie: foz he was
asinoche moued te pytie her, as to obey
the kinges comaundement. And when
the kynge hadde recepyed & letter and
redde it, he comaunded streyghtly that
the berer therof shulde auoyde his pre-
sence. And when I saw that, then newly
agayne

agayne I cursed my mysaduenture, &
thought that my tozmente was so great
that it occupied my harte in dolour: yet
my mynde forgat not to do þe I ought.
And though I hadde more space to en-
dure payne, rather then to fynde reme-
dy: yet then I wente, and spake with the
lorde Gawlo her vnkle, and shewyd
hym how Lereano was determynd to
take Laureola perforce out of presone,
wherfoze I desyred hym to be redy with
a certayne nombre of men, that when
Lereano hadde taken her oute of presō,
then he wold delyuer her to his power
to sette her in sauegarde. Because that
if Lereano shulde cary her away with
hym, it shulde verifys the wytnes of the
false accusers. And bycause that þe deth
of Laureola was as dere to hym, as to
the quene his suster: he aunswered me &
sayde, how he was content therwith.
And when his wyll and my desyre were
confsymable together, then I depertyd
secretly, bycause that of any byute were
made

made þe dead myght be executyd sodely.
And when I came to Vereano, I shewyd hym all that I hadde done, and of the small effect therof. And then I delyuered hym Laureolas letter, and what for the compassion of the wordes therein and with the thoughtes that he determyned to do, his harte therewith was so oppresyd, þe he wist not what aunswere to make me. He wepte for compassion, any coulde not refrayne his ire, and was soze discomforytd by reasone of his euyll fortune, and yet he hopyde accordyng to iustice. When he thought to reskew Laureala, he was ioyfull. And agayne when he doughtyde to byynge it aboute, his harte changyde. Fynally leueng al doubtes, a knowyng the aunswere of Galleo, then he began to study what waye to accomplishe, his enterpryce. And lyke a wyse knyghte, well prouydyde whyle I hadde ben in the courte: he had assemblyd to gether of his own seruantes. v. C. men of armes
with

without knowledgyng of any of his
kynne oz frendes. Some peraduenture
wolde haue agreyd with hym with dis-
crete consideration, suche as were made
priuy. Some of them sayd, þ kyng dyd
euil. And some sayd it was a ieopdous
enterpryse and perillous to accomplishe.
Therfoze to excheu al such inēueniēts
he thought to execute his deade alone w
his owne men. So the day befoze that
Laureola shuld haue bene iudged, Here
ano calld befoze hym all his seruantes
and sayde to them: how the good vertu-
ous men were moze bounde to feare
theyr shame, then the perell of theyr
lyues. Also sayenge, how yet lyueth the
fame of them that be passyd, by reasone
of theyr deades that they haue done.
And he desired them that for couetyse
of worldy goodes þ whiche shall haue
an ende, that they shulde not for that,
lose the glory of them, that liueth per-
petually. And he despyed them to haue
in theyr memozy, the rewarde of well
J. dyeng

dyeng, & he shewyd the what folyshnes
it was to feare deth. And in they? so do-
yng, he promysed them great gyftes &
rewardes. And when he hadde made to
them a long sermon, then he declaryd
þ cause that he sent for them: and all
they with one voice proferyd to lyue
and dye with hym. And when Lcreano
saw they? good wylls, he thought hym
selfe then well accompanyd, and so de-
partyd in the nyght, and came in to a
valey nere to the citie, ther he tarped all
the nyght, and infourmyd his mē what
they shulde do. He apoyntyd one capi-
tayne with a .C. men of armes, that
they shuld go streyght to the lodging of
Persyo, and to slee hym, and as many as
dyd resyst them. Then he apoyntyde
other .ii. capitayns with eche of them .l.
footeinen, to go bp the two principall
streates, goyng to the p̄sone where as
Laureola was cōmaundyng them that
when they came to the p̄son, then they
to tome they? faces to the citie warde, &
kepe

kepe & defende that no person shulde
entre in to the castell vntill suche tyme
as he with other will. Comen came to
take oute Laureola. And the capitayne
that he hadde comaundyd to sle Persio
he charged hym that when he had done
to come and mete with hym at the p̄sō
and they to defende the passage, yf any
came to entre in to the castell, whyle he
were taking oute of Laureola. And all
this thus agreyd & cōcludyd, when the
gates were opened in the mornyng so-
denly he and all hys men entered in to
the citie and euery capitayne toke hede
to his charge. The capitayne that had
the charge to sle Persio, executed his
comaundemente, for he slew Persio, &
all other that were in his way to lette
hym. Ther Persio endyd his miserable
lyfe, and Lereano went to the p̄sō
and what with the furour of his ire, &
with the vertue of his force fought so
fercelly with the keepers of the p̄sone,
and slew so many that he could not get

II. forwarde

for dede bodyes, but with moche paynes.
But as in al perels the boundie entrea-
seth by force of armes. So by cleue
force he came into the prison wher as
Laureola was, and there he toke her
with as greate ceremony and honour
as thought hit hadde bene in tyme of
peace, he knelld downe to the perth,
and kylt het hande, lyke the daughter
of a kynge, and with that present tur-
bacion, she stode without strenght, so
that she coude not moue her selfe, her
harte dismayd, her colour fapld, litle
parte of any lyfe was lefte in her. Then
Lecanoooke and carped her oute of
prison, and then mette with Galles her
vnckle accordynge to his promyse, who
came thither with a certayn number of
men, and there in the presence of euery
man Lecano deliuered, Laureola in
to his handes, and still his men fought
against them that came agaynst hym:
but he set Laureola vpon an hakeney,
that Galles had ther redy, and agayne
kyste

kyste her hande, and then went to ayde
his men, that were styll fyghtyng, and
still he regardyd after Laureola, till he
hadde losse the syght of her. So Galles
her vncle ledde her to a castell of his
owne not farre thence, and when þe brute
of this dead, came to the helyng of the
kynge, he callyd for his armure, and
sownyd trompettes, and caused all the
men of his courte to be armyd, & many
of the cite. And when Lereano saw that
of necessite it was tyme for hym to get
oute of the towne in to the felde, then
he comfortyd his men, with swete and
hardy woozdes. And all wayes in his
reculynge, he defendyd the multitude
of his enemyes with a valiante harte,
and to kepe an honest maner in his re-
culynge, he went in good order, and not
with so great haste, as the case requiryd
Thus lesyng some of his men, and sle-
yng of, many of his enemyes, he came
thithen where he had left al theyr hoyses
So suche order as he had sette before

was well and treuely kepte, and so without perel he & his leyt vnder theyr horses, the which was hard to haue ben done if he had not wysely prouidyd the remedy therof befoze hand. Then the horsemen put befoze them theyr fote arme, and toke the way to Suria, fro whence they cam. And when Lereano saw .iii. bandes of the kynges apwoche nere hym, then he wente oute of the waye, and conductyd so wisely his company by wayes of a bauntage, that he scapyd with as great honour in his reculynge, as he hadde wonne in the fightyng: so he enteryd agayne in to the towne of Suria withoute losse of any of his men, which was greate meruayll: for the kyng was ther in ppropze person with .v. M. men of armes, who was inflamyd with ire: and so beset the towne about, in purpose not to depert thence till he had taken vengeance of Lereano. When Lereano saw how he was besegyd, he sette his men lyke a wyse man of warre to the walles, where as

where as was most feblest parte, there
he sette most defence, and where as he
myght best issue out in to the feld, there
he sette such men as were mete for that
purpose, and there as he fearyd other
crafte or treasone, there he sette such as
he trustyd best. Thus he vsyd hym selfe
lyke a wyle capitayne. The kyng thyn-
kyng to byng his enterpryce to an ende
comaundyd to fortesfy his campe, and
to prouyde for all thynges necessary
perteynyng to a campe royall, as en-
gys, bastides and bulwerkes to beat
the citie with artillery, and made greate
dykes that none shuld issue oute, when
the kyng saw so longe taryng at this
siege his ire encreasyde: for he hadde
thought to hade taken Lereano by rea-
sone of famyne, and for all that he saw
the towne ryght stronge, yet he deter-
mynd to sawte it the whiche he prouyd
with suche fiercenes, that they within
had great nede to put to theyr strength
and dyligence to resiste. Then Lereano

J.iiii.

went

went & visytyd his men with a .C. men
suche as were deputyd for that purpose,
and euery where he saw any fyghtyng,
he euer encozagyd them, and where as
he saw valiantnes he prayled them, and
where he saw any euill order he founde
remedy. fynally the kyng caused to
sowne the retrayte with losse of many of
his knyghtes, & specially of the yonge
lusty courteers who euer sekpyth for pe-
cells, to wyne therby glozy. Lereano
at the same assaulte was hurte in the
face and also losse many of his principal
men. This assaulte past, the kyng gaue
other. v. assaultes within the space of
iii. monethes, so that in maner men be-
ganne to fayle on bothe parties, so that
Lereano was doubteous of that enter-
pryce, how be it in his wordes and coun-
tenance, nor in his deades nothyng of
feare coulde be aspyed, so that y^e corage
of the capitayne, incozagyd all the other
capitaynes, and then to gyue corage to
his men suche as were lefte, he sayde to
them

them as folowith.

Creano to his company.

I Certaynly syz as ye be but fewe in
nōber, so our strength is not greate
I haue doubte in our enterprize
accoꝝdyng to our euyl fortune, but in
that, vertue is estemyde moze then is
greate nomber, and consyderynge your
noble deades passed, I thynke I shuld
haue moze nede of good fortune, then
of greate nōber of knyghtes: wherfoze
alonely in you is all my hope, and syne
our helthe is in our handes, aswell foꝝ
the sustentacion of our lyues, as foꝝ the
gloꝝy of good fame, we ought valiātly,
to fyght, now y case is offeryd vs ozels
to leue the pꝛofyt of our enherytance to
them that wold disheryte vs. Thus we
shulde be vnhappy if foꝝ feare & faynte
coꝝage we shuld lese our herytage: ther-
foze lette vs fyght, to delyuer our blude
fro shame and dishonour and my name
fro enfamy, this day lette vs make an
ende of our lyues, ozels conferme our

I. b. honours

honours, lette vs defende our selfe, and
not to be Champd, for greater is the re-
warde of byctory, then the occasions of
perel. This paynefull lyfe that we lyue
in, I know not why we shulde somoche
desyre it, the daies therof are but shorte
and longe in trauayll, & which for feare
increseth not, nor for hardynes shorteth
not: for when we be bozne, our tyme is
lymyted, the whiche we shal not passe,
thereby feare is subdued, & hardynes
lawded, we can not put our fortune in a
better state, then to hope of an honoura-
ble deth. ¶ glorious fame. ¶ couetyse
laudable the auerise of honour wherby
is atepned greatter deades, then this
of ours is, lette vs not feare the greate
company that is in the kinges campe
for at the fyrste encounter, the weke
shall fyrst fyght, and ouercome them, &
they shall abashe the multitude & the
small nombze wyl enforce them selfe by
vertue: many thynges dyueth vs to be
hardy, bountie and vertue byndeth vs,
and

and iustice enforseth vs, necessitie shall
rewarde vs, wherfoze we ought not to
feare, for they is nothyng that shulde
cause vs to dye. Sye all these reasones
that I haue sayde is but superflew to
enforce our strenght. Syn we haue it
naturally but I will say to you that in
euery tyme our hartes ought to be occu-
pied in noblenes, & our handes in dea-
des of armes, and our thoughtes in
good workes & good wordes amonge
company, as we do now I receiue equal
gloze aswel for the amorous good wyll
that ye shew me as for the deades of
armes that ye haue done, and bycause
I se our enmyes prepaye them to fight
we be constrayned to leue our talkyng,
& euery man to gette hym to his charge
and defence.

The auctor.

Creano was answered of his knigh-
tes w greate constance and corage
of harte, whereof he thought hym
selfe ryght happy, that he hadde suche
men in

men in his company, so euery man went
to his defence, where as they were a
poyntyd and then anone, they hard the
trompettes blowe, and wihtin shozte
space there came to the walles, a.l. M.
men, and began freely to gyue assaulte.
Then Lereano shewed his vertue, and
by reasone of theyr defence, the kynge
thought they within hade losse neuer a
mā. This assaut endured fro 5 myddes
of the day, tyll it was nyght, the which
depertryd them: there were slayne & hurt
of them withoute a .iii. M. and as many
of them within, so that Lereano hadde
leset no mo with hym but. C.l. persones
and yet by his contenance, he semyd as
though he had losse neuer a man, how
be it he was inwardly sorow for them that
he had losse. All that nyght he buryed
the dede bodyes, and praysed and laud-
dyde the valiantnes of them that were
leste alpyue and gyuing no lesse glozy to
them that were dede, then to them that
werd a lyue. The next day at the relpese
in the

in the mozenynge, Lereano determynyd
that .l. of his menne with hym shulde
issue oute, and syt vpon a lodgyng that
ioynede to the walles perteynyng to a
kynnesmans of Persyos. Lereano dyde
this bicause the kynge shuld not thynke
that he lacked men. And this he dyde
with ferme boldnes and so byente the
sayde lodgyng, and sleu many such as
made defence. And as god wolde in the
same busyness there was taken one of
them that hadde accusyd Laureola, he
was brought to Lereano, and was put
to payne till he was causyd to shewe all
the trowth of the hole mater, and so he
confessed the hole circústance of the ma-
ter. And when Lereano was enfourmed
of the trowth, he sent hym to the kynge,
besechynge hym to dyscharge Laureola
fro all blame, and to do iustice vpon
them, for the payne that they haue cau-
sed Laureola to endure. And when the
kynge knew the certaynte, he was ryght
gladde, and thought it was reason that
he requi

he requiryd, and to make shoꝛte proces
The kinge dyd iustice vpon þ̄ .iii. falce
wytneffes accordynge to theyꝛ desertes;
then incontynent he reised vp the siege
and reputyd his doughter Laureola
discharged, & Acreano withoute faulte
and so went to his citie of Suria, & then
sente for Laureola by þ̄ grettest loꝛdes
of his court, and she was brought with
equall honour accordynge to her deser-
uynge, and was ioyfully receuyd of the
kyng & of the quene, who wepte for ioy
and there the kinge discharged her fro
blame, and the quene kyst her, and all
other seruyd her Thus the payne passed
was turned to great ioy present. Then
the kyng sent to Acreano cōmaundyng
hym not to come to his court till he had
apeased þ̄ kynnesmen & frendes of Per-
sio, the whiche cōmaundement he recey-
ued w̄ greate sorow, bycause he mighte
not se Laureola. And when he saw none
other remedye, he felte hym selfe in a
strange maner, and seynge hym selfe de-
perryd

pertyd fro her. He lefte the woꝝkes of
chynalry, and retourned agayne to his
olde amozouse thoughtes and trowbles
desyryng to know what case Laureola
was in. He desyꝛede me to fynde some
honest maner, how he myght se & speke
wth her, and yet his desyꝛe was so honest,
that he desyꝛyd not to speke with her in
suche wyse that any suspecte shulde be
layde to her, of the whiche he deseruyde
to haue had great thanke. And I who
was glade to folowe his desire departed
fro hym, and went to Suria: and when
I came there, and had kyssed Laureolas
hande, then I shewyd her Lereanos de-
syꝛe, And she aunswered me and sayde,
that in no wyse she wolde speke with
hym, foꝝ dyuerce causes that she alled-
gyde. And though she was not content
to graūt me at that tyme, yet euer after
as often as I myght speke with her, I
made styll my supplicacion, and fynally
at laste she aunswerede me & sayde ons
foꝝ all, that if I spake any moꝛe to her
in that

in that mater, she wolde be vtterly displeasyd with me. And when I harde her aunswere, and saw her displeasure then I went to Lereano with greate heuynes and dolour, and when I had shewyd hym how it was: then he began newly to complayne, and sorowe, for hys mysaduenture: so that with oute doubt he was in the condicion to haue dispayred. And when I saw that yet to entertayne hym I sayde & counsayld hym to wryte agayne to Laureola, recordeynge therin what he hadde done for her, and maruaylynge of her change, seynge she had rewardyd hym befoze with her wrytynge. Then he aunswered and sayde how he was well content to wryte but not to recite therin any thyng that he had done for her: the which he sayd was nothyng accordeynge to her deseruyng. Noz also he sayd he wolde make no remembrance in his letter of any rewarde þ he had receuyd of her. For he sayd, the lawe of loue defendeth
any suche

any suche thyng to be wyten. What
satisfacion shulde I receue therby : for
the greate perell that myght fall, yf the
letter were sene. Thus not tochyng
those maters I wyll wyte to Laureola
The tenour of his letter folowith.

The letter fro Lereano
to Laureola.

If mye lady Laureola accor dyng to
your vertuous pytie synne ye
know my passion I can not beleue
but y^e ye wyll cōsente to my demaunde,
syn I desyre nothyng that shall be to
your dishonour seinge ye knowe myne
euill. why do you dought, withoute rea-
son I dye. ye know that great payne oc-
cuppeth so myne harte, that I feale the
euill, and can not shewe it: yf ye take it
for good that I shuld dye, thynking to
satisfye me with the passion y^e ye gyue
me, syn it procedeth fro you, hit is the
grettest welth that I can hope for, and
iustely I shall take it for the ende of my
reward, yf ye iudge me vncourteise in y^e

L.i.

I shulde

I shulde not be content with that ye do
to me, gyuinge me cause of so gloriouse
thoughts. yet blame me not for though
the wyl be satisfyed. The vnderstan-
ding maketh quarell, and yf my dolour
do please you, bycause I neuer dyd you
seruice that might attayne to the heigh-
nes of your deseruyng. whē I remēbre
these thynges, & many mo, I thynke &
bycause that ye wyl not graūte my sup-
plycacion, bycause I can do nothyng
that shuld deserue it, yet hardynes hath
causyd me to hope vpon mercy, not ac-
cording to my deseruing, but according
to your bountie that may gyue it. And
I thynk that your vertue, cōpassyon, &
pitie, shulde ayde me, bycause they be
agreable to your condycion. When a
man hathe any busyness with a greate
personage: thynkyng to attayne to haue
grace: fyrste he must wyne the good
wylles of the sernautes, wherby a man
lightely shall come to his entent. But
as for me I can fynde no remedye. I
haue

hane done my deuour to serche for ayde
whome I haue found alwayes ferme
& stable for all they haue requyred you
to haue mercy vpon me: yf owle bycause
he suffereth, hand the lyfe bycause it su-
stepneth, the harte bycause it endureth,
the vnderstandynge bycause it feleth.
And syn ye wyl gyue no reward for all
these, in that they desyre, and by reason
haue deseruyd, I ame the moste vnfo-
tunat of all other vnhappy. The water
refressheth the yerth: but my weppnges
can not molefye your endurat hardnes.
The water gyueth liquoz to the feldes,
herbys, and trees, but my weppnge can
not entre in to your harte. As I fynde
my selfe disposyd, dyspayre shuld rydde
my lyfe, yf I myght be alone. But al-
wayes I ame accompanyd with the
thoughtes that ye gyue me, and with y
desyre y ye ordeyne me. Also the remem-
brance of that I wolde do cōfōrteth me:
remembryng how they kepte me com-
pany, in suche wyse, that what soeuer
xii. cause

cause I haue desperacion yet it kepeth
me fro dispaynyng: yf it be your plesure
that I shall dye, let me haue soine know-
ledge therof, then I shall not be all vn-
happy: for then I shall passe it the moze
wplyngly, and at the ende it shalbe to
me, the moze ease: bycause it is for your
gyfte. And syn ye wyl not se me, I must
be enforſed to go that trace.

¶ The auctoꝝ.

This letter I bare to Laureola, w
moche payne she receyued it, and
to dispatche her fro Lereano honest-
ly she wrote agayne in this maner with
full determy nacion neuer to receyue
agayne fro hym other letter oꝝ message
The tenour of her letter folowith.

¶ The letter fro Laureola
to Lereano.

Lereano the displeasure that I haue
of thyne euyl shulde be satisfactio
for thy loue, yf thou knew how
greate it is. And this alonely take for
thy remedy withoute demaundyng of
any other

any other. Though it be but a small
paymente, for that thou hast deserued
agaynst me. For as I am bound to do
yf thou wylt demaunde of my goodes
and ryches, as thou dost desyre agaynst
myne honour, I wolde gladly gyue it
the. I will not aunswere euery article
of thy letter for I considerynge that I
do thus wyte to the, the bloud rynneth
fro my harte and my reason vanyssheth
fro my iudgement. Ther is no cause
that thou hast wyten of, that causeth
me to consent to be soye for thyne euyll,
but it is alonely by reason of my bounte
yet I haue no doubt, but that thou en-
duryst moche euyll: for the perell that þ
hast bene in, beareth wytnes of that þ
hast suffred. Thou sayst, thou dyddest
me neuer seruice. That thou hast done
for me, I shall neuer forget, but alwaye
desyre to satisfye it, but not as thou de-
syrst, but accorpyng to myne honestye.
The vertue pitie and compassion, that
thou thynkyst shulde ayde the agaynst

Æ.iii. me

me bycause they ar agreeable to my con-
dicio. How be it in this case they are en-
emies to my fame: & therfoze thou findest
them contrary. When I was take thou
saupdest my lyfe, & now þ I am quyte,
thou woldest cōdemne me w thy desyre.
Rather I ought to seke thy payne with
myne honour: then to remedy the with
myne owne faulte & shame. Beleue not
that the people lyue so holily, but & they
knew þ I spake w the, they wold iudge
our clere entensions to the worst: for
the worlde is so dyuerce, that men wyll
rather defame bountie, then to prayse
vertue. Thus thy demaūde is excusyd
therfoze take no hope therein, though
thou shuldest dye as thou sayst. For bet-
ter is honest crueltie, then pitie culpable
Herynge this peraduenture thou wylte
say I am moueable, bycause I began
to shew the some mercy, as in wrytynge
to the, and now determyned not to re-
medy þ. Thou knowest wel vnder what
maner I dyd wryte to the, and for what
entent

entent, and though it hadde ben for any
other cause, yet as conueniente is the
mutacion in thynges that be hurtfull:
As is ferme stedfastnes in thynges that
be honest. I require the, strenght thy
selfe, lyke a valiant knyght, and reme-
dy thy selfe discretly. But not thy life in
perell, and myne honour in disputaciō,
syn thou somoche desyrest it. What shal
be sayde if thou dye, that I do rewarde
seruice done to me with takynge awaye
theyr lyues, to the which I wyll shew
contrary. yf I outelyue, the kynge my
father, for then shall I gyue the what
parte of þe reame that thou wylte desyre.
And I shall encrease thyne honour, &
double thy rentes, and enhaunce thyne
estate, & all that thou wylte ordeyne, no
thyngne shalbe denyed. And thus by thy
lyfe I shalbe iudgyd a good rewarder.
And if thou dye I shalbe reputyde of
euyl cōdicions, and if it were for none
other thyng but for this. Thou shuldest
enforse thy selfe, but for the trouble
B.iiii. that

that thy payne putteth me vnto, I wpll
say no moze to the. Bycause thou shalte
not think that in thy demand I shuld
gyue the counsayll, or put the in any
hope. Wold to god, that thy desyre were
honest. Thus I counsayll the on the one
parte, and satysfye the on the other. And
at this poynte I send to the this letter
on the purpose neuer to aunswere, nor
to heare the speke moze.

The auctor.

When Laureola had wyten this let
ter she sayd to me with a determy-
nate aunswere that this shulde be
the last tyme that I shuld apere before
her ptesence. sayeng that her comynge
with me causyd moche suspect, and that
in my goyng & comynge, ther was moze
perell to her, then hope to me of any re-
medy. Then I seynge her determyne
will, it semyd to me that my trauayle
was moze paynfull to me, then remedy
to Lereano. So I went fro her w moze
wepyng then woordes. And after I had
kyst

kyst her hand, I wente out of the place
with sobbynge, and gulpyng in my
throte, that I was nere strangeled to
kepe in my wepyng, and to thentent to
couer my passiō. And when I was oute
of the citie alone, then I began to wepe
in suche wyse, that I coulde not retayne
my voyce fro brayng, so that I thought
it was better for me to dye in Salsedo-
nia, then to retorne into Castile, & which
desire was resonable, for by the dethe,
myne euyl aduenture shulde make an
ende: and with lyfe, my sorow shulde en-
crease, Thus all the way wepyng and
syghyng seplede me not: & when I came
to Leteano, I delyueryd hym the letter
fro Laureola, and when he hadde redde
it, he sayd he wolde nother take strength
nor receyue any counsayll, syn it was so
good reason that he shulde dye. Then
he sayde to me, that alwayes he wolde
take me, for more then his frēde, bicause
of the good counsayll that I had gyuen
hym. Then wth voyte and colour mortal

k. v.

he be

he began to complayne , not blamyng
his wekenes noꝝ dyspraysynge his fall,
foꝝ euery thyng that myght shoꝛte his
lyfe, he praysede, he shewde hym selfe,
frende to dolour, and toke recreacion in
toꝛmentes, he louyd sorowes, all thes
he calld his welthe, to be messengers
to Laureola. And bycause they shuld be
entreatyd accoꝛdyng as fro thence as
they came, he frysde them in his harte,
he ioyned them to his vnderstandynge
and conueied them with his memoꝛy, he
desyꝛde them to make a shoꝛte ende of
that they hadde to do, to the entent that
Laureola myght be seruyde, and thus
beyng without hope of any welth, and
trobled with mortall paynes, could not
susteyne hym selfe no leger, but perfoꝛce
coꝛsteyned to lye downe, vpon his bedde
where he wolde nother eate, dꝛynke, noꝝ
stepe, noꝝ take any thyng foꝝ sustetacion
of his lyfe, euer calyng hym selfe happy
to come to the case to do some seruice to
Laureola, as by his dethe, to byꝛnge her
out of

oute of all trouble, so anone it was published abroad in the realme, and in the court how Lereano was lyke to dye. Then his kynne & frendes came to comforte hym, and to tozne his purpose, they sayde and dyde asmoche as they coulde. Imagyne to pzeuayle his lyfe, & bycause his infyrmyte was to be curyd by holsome reasones, euery mā sharpyd theyr wyttes to do the best they coulde. And there was a knyghte callyd Teseo a greate frende of his, he considerynge that his sekenes was for loue, though he knewe not for whome it was, he sayd and shewyd to Lereano all the euyls of women that he coulde deuise, and to conferme his owne reasones, he alegyd as many thynges as he coulde, in the defamynge of women, thynkyng therby to haue restoryd Lereano to his helthe. When Lereano hadde well harde hym, and consyderyde that Laureola was a woman, he rebukyd greatly Teseo for spekyng of suche wordes, and though
as then

as then his disposicion was not moche
to speke, yet he enforçyd his tonge, and
with the passion of greate iri: sayde as
folowith.

Clereano agaynst Ceseo, and
agaynst all euell spekets
agaynst women.

Frend Ceseo yf another man, that
owd the not so good loue as I do
hard my woꝝdes, it wolde cause
the to receyue payne accoꝝdyng to thy
deserte: howbeit my reasons shalbe to
the suche an ensample, to cause the to
kepe thy tonge, and it shalbe a chastise-
ment in stede of thy payne, in the which
I shall folow the condicion of a true
frende, foꝝ yf I shewyd the not thy fault
by quyke reasons, peraduenture thou
woldest vtter foꝝth agayne in other pla-
ces suche like woꝝdes as thou ryght
now sayd, it shalbe most foꝝ thy profyt
to amend thy self by my contradictions
rather then to shame thy selfe with per-
seuerance, the entent of thy woꝝdes was
as a

as a frende, the whiche I well confidre
thou sayedest them, bycause I shulde
abhoze them that hath brought me in
to the case that thou seist me in. And by
reason of thy sayeng euill of women,
thyne entension was therby to gyue me
remedy of my lyfe, and therby thou hast
gyuen me the soner deth: for the shame-
full woordes that thou hast sayd, putteth
me to suche tozment, bycause it is a wo-
man, that hath put me to this payne,
therfoze by reasone of herynge of thy
woordes, I shall lyue the lesse season,
wherby I shall receue a great welth for
the recepyunge of this dolorous deth
were better to be shortely, then to sus-
teyne y lyfe any lenger: for it is a thyng
delectable to suffre, and with a swet rest
to make an ende of this lyfe, the whiche
swete ende shalbe by reason that these
my last woordes shalbe in the pzease of
women, and my wyl is somewhat to sa-
tisfye her in whome resith al the cause, &
to begynne to shew the thyne errour, I
wyl

wyll alledge. xv. poyntes agaynste all
them that erreth in spekyng euell of
women, and .xx. other reasones I shall
lay wherby we are bound to say well of
all women, with dyuerce other samples
of theyr bountie & goodnes. And as to
the fyrst let vs found our reason, how
that all thynges made by the hande of
god, are necessarily good: for accordyng
to the workeman, the worke ought to
procede: then knowyng that women
are his creatures, they that speke euill
of them, offende not allonely them, but
also they blaspheme the workeman, the
which is god. p. ii. cause is, p. befoze god
& man ther is not a moze abhomynable
synne, noz harder to be perdoned, then
is ingratitude, for where can ther be a
greater synne, then to put out of know
ledge, and to forgette the welth that is
to come to vs by reason of the byrgyn
mary and dayly cometh: she deliuered
vs fro payne, and causeth vs to meryte
the glozy of heuen, she saueth vs, she su-
stepneth

stepneth vs, she defendeth vs, she gydeth
vs, she gyueth vs lyght of grace. Then
seyng she was a woman, then all other
foz her sake ought to be crowned with
lawde and prayse. The.iii. is, bycause
it is defended to all men accoꝝdyng to
vertue, to shew any strength agaynst
the weke sex femynyne. And this is ob-
serued amonge bꝛewt bestes, wherfoze
men shulde folow the same, yet some
suche as lyst to speke euyll say, though
that women can make but small resy-
stence with theyꝝ handes, yet they haue
no lesse liberte with theyꝝ tonges. The
iiii. is, a man ought not to say euyll of
womē, withoute he dishonour hym selfe
bycause he was creatyde and noꝝshede
in the wombe of a woman, and is of her
substance, and also bycause of y honoꝝr
and reuerēce, that euery child ought to
do to his mother. The.v. is, bycause of
the disobedience to god who sayde with
his owne mouth, that father & mother
shulde be honouryd, therfoꝝ suche as
Do

doother wyse do setue soze punisshemēt
& payne, The. vi. is bycause noble men
are boude to occuppe them selfe in ver-
tuuous deades aswell in woozdes as in
wozkes, then yf fowle woordes defowle
clenlynes then in perell of slander and
defamy, is the honour of suche persons
that wasteth theyr lyfe in suche vayne
woordes. The. vii. is when that the ozdze
of chyuaulyr was fyrste stablysshed a-
mong other thynges, who soeuer shuld
take the ozdze of knighthod, he shuld be
bound to kepe & defende all women, and
to gyue them all reuerence and honeste
and who so doth the contrary, bzeketh
the lawe of noblenes. The. viii. is to de-
fend honour fro perell, the auncyent
noble men with greate deligence and
study, kepte and obserued alwayes such
thynges as perteyned to bountie, and
they reputed that so great that they had
no greater feare, of any thyng in the
wozld then they had to leue behynde
them the remembzance of infamy and
reproche

reproche, þ which they kept not, þ prefer
reth turpitud & fowlnes befoze vertue,
putting spottes in theyr fame, by reason
of theyr euill tonge. For oftentymes a
mā is iuged to be accordyng to his woꝝ
ves. The. ix. & most princypal is for the
condēnaciō of þ soule: al thiges wꝛong
fullytakē, may be satysfied, but þ fame
robbyd and taken away, the satisfacciō
thereof is doughtfull, þ which is moze
completly determynyde in our beleue.
The .x. is to eschew hatryd for suche as
bestowe theyr tyme in euill spekyng
agaynst women, they make them selfe
not onely enemyes agaynst them, but
also to them that be vertuouus : for lyke
as vertue & vice are contrary, and haue
dyfferente pꝛopꝛeties so the euill speaker
can not be withoute hate and euill wyll
and many enemyes. The .xi. bicause of
the hurtes þ by suche malicious deades
are encreasyde, for woꝝdes geuith ly-
cence, and are ioynd to the herynge, of
the rude people, aswell as to them þ be

L. i.

Dis.

discrete, and herynge of suche tayles,
suche as be but of small speryte wyll re-
proue the euyl speker, & cause them to re-
pente theyr wordes, & entseate them e-
uyl, ye & peraduenture sle them the cau-
ses may toche so nere. The. xii. to eschew
the murmuracions, the whiche euery
man ought to dough: for a man beynge
defamed, and called an euyl speker in
euery place aswell within houses as a
bryde in y^e felde, men wyll speke shame
of hym, & murmur at his vice. The. xiii.
is for y^e perell that may ensue, for when
suche be taken for euyl spekers, they
are behated of euery man, and some per-
aduenture to please theyr ladies, wil set
ther handes vpon them that speke euyl
of any woman. The. iiii. s for y^e beau-
tie and grace y^e is in women, the whiche
is of suche excellence, that though they
had all suche other vices in them, as the
euyl spekers do slander them withall
yet it were better to prayse one thyng
of trouthe, then to dysprayse all with
malice

malice. The.xv. and the last is for the great welth and goodnes, that women be causers of, for of them are borne emperours, kynges, lordes, and all other noble men, and all other vertuous men doyng deades worthy of prayse, and also of them procedeth wyse men, who seketh to know, what is good, in whose beleue we be saued. Also of women cometh these inuentiue persons, who maketh cities and stronge buyldynges of perpetuall excellence, & by them are brought forth the such men as seke for all thynges necessary for the sustentacion of the humayn lynage.

The other.xx.reasons that Aere
ano shewed, wherby that men
are bound to loue women.

Now Teseo syn thou hast hard the
causes wherin thou arte culpable,
and all other that folow such aro
nyous opinyon, lette vs leue all prolixite,
and here.xx.reasones wherby I wyll
proue that men are bounde to women.

A.ii.

The

The fyrst is bycause by theyr meanes, &
symple & rude persones dispose them
selfe to attayne to vertue, and to pru-
dence, and not alonely, they cause the
symple to be discrete, but they cause
them that be discrete to be moze subtile:
for if they be luryd with the passion of
loue, they study then somoche for theyr
libertie & in sufferynge of theyr dolour
they study & imagyne to speke reasones
so swete and so mete for theyr purpose, &
often tymes for compassyon therof they
are delyuerd: & such as be symple, and
rude of nature, yf they be enteryd in to
loue though they begynne rudely, yet
they quycken so theyr vnderstandynge,
that often tymes they come therby to
wysdomc. This they haue by women
thought theyr naturall reasone fayle.
The. ii. reason is that by reason of iu-
stice they cause men to haue the vertue
of sufferance, for such as be in the trayn
of loue and suffre payne out of mesure
they take it in maner for a comeforte,
iustifynge

iustifyinge, & they suffer it ryghtwysly
and yet they make vs not alonely ioy
for this vertue, but also for other as na-
turall. For they that be stedfast louers,
to be praysed of them that they serue,
they seke all þe wayes they can to please,
for which cause they lyue iustly not exce-
dyng in any thyng, in that is honou-
rable nor mete to be done, bycause they
wolde not be fampyd to be of euyll con-
dycions, or to vse any euyll customes.
The .iii. cause is they make vs worthy
in the vertue of atemperance, bycause
they shulde not abhorre vs, nor that we
shuld not be behatyd of them, they cause
vs to vse atemperance in eatyng and
drynkyng and slepyng, and in all other
thynges that perteynith to the vertue
of atemperance aswell in spekyng as
in all other warkes, so that we woll not
excede in no poynte frome honestie. The
iiii. is, they that lacke strength, women
do gyue it to them, and suche as hath
strength by the meanes of women, it

Liii.

doth

doth encrease, they cause vs to be strong
to suffre, they cause hardynes to enter-
prize, they cause the harte to hope, when
they putte theyr louers to any ieopedy,
they cause them to be i glozy, they cause
vs to repyte feare, a great vice, for we
esteme more þ prayse of our louer, then
the price of longe lyfe. For theyr sakes
they begynne, & make an ende of many
greate eterprizes, puttyng theyr strenght
in the state as they deserue: wherfore we
may well indge, þ we be bounde to them
The .v. is they endue vs with no lesse
vertuos theogecals, then they do with
vertuos cardynals. And to speke of the
fyrst, the which is faith, yf any man be
in dought of his beleue, if his mynde be
oneset in loue, then he shall truely be-
leue in god, and laude his puyssance to
create suche a creature as his louer is,
with so excellent beawtye, and they wyl
be so deuoute, that the apostels in holy-
nes shall haue of them none aduauntage
The .vi. reasone is bycause they engen-
der in

der in our sowles the vertue of hope, so
though þ subgiettes to the lawe of loue
endure moche payne, yet alwayes they
hope in they? beleue, they hope in they?
stedfastnes, they hope in þ pitie of them
that cause they? payne, they hope in the
cōdyction of they? louet, who distroyeth
them, they hope in the aduenture seynge
they haue so moche hope vpo them that
gyuith them they? passion, then they
must nedys haue hope in god who offe-
rith and promyseth perpetuall comforte
and reste. The .vii. reason is, they cause
vs to deserue charyte, the propretie ther
of is loue: this restith in our wyll, this
we put in our thoughtes, this we drawe
in to our memozy, this we ferme in our
hartes. And though it be so that we vse
this loue towardes our loueres, yet it
redoundithe to the souerayne vtilyte,
and welthe in tyme to come, so that w
quyke contricion it shall byynge vs to
god: for loue at þ pynche of deth causith
vs to do almesse deades, and cōmaun-
L.iiii. dith

dith to say masses and occupieth vs in
charitable warkes to thentent to dely-
uer vs fro our cruell thoughtes, and by
cause that womē naturally are deuoute
and bycause we wolde be pertakers of
they? deades, it enforſith vs to do ſuche
good warkes as we do. The .viii. reaſō
bycause they make vs contemplatiue,
for the priſoners of loue, do gyue them
ſelfe to contemplacion, in remembrynge
the beaute grace and excellence of them
that they loue, and ſomtoche they thynke
vpon they? paſſions, that often tymes
they remember god, & ſet ſo they? hartes
vpon hym, that they thynke them ſelfe
well worthy to receyue they? paynes &
toꝛmētes. Thus it may be knowē clerly
that women helpe & ayde men, to wyne
the gloꝝy perdurable. The .ix. reaſone is
they make our hartes contryte, not wth
ſtandyng that ſome be ſoze peyned, by
cause they cā not attayn, to they? wylles
and deſires, then with wepynges and
ſyghynges they deſire of they? ladys,
some

some remedye. And the accostumynge of
this doyng byngith them to go cōfesse
theyr synnes w̄ wepyng and waylynge
in suche wyse that they deserue perdone
and absoluciō of theyr synne. The .x. is
the good counsaile that women geuith
vs, often tymes it falleth that we fynde
i theyr redy cōsail, that we haue long
studyed for befoze, and sought for with
great dyligence: and by theyr peaseable
counsailis withoute sclaunder, they
haue withstande many euyls, & sauyde
many lyues: they conserue the peace,
they refrayne ire, & apeace furiousnes,
and sette ampte betwene enemyes. The
xi. is men be honouryd by them, they
cause greate maryages w̄ great ryches
and rentes, some peraduenture wyl say
that honour restith not in ryches, but
rather in vertue, I say therto, they cause
aswell the one as the other. I p̄sume,
that ther be greate vertue in vs yet the
greate honours and prayse that we de-
syze to haue cōmyth by them, bycause of

Ab. women

women, we esteeme moze shame, then
our lyues, for theyr sakes we study to
do al warkes of noblenes. The .xii. rea-
sonne is, they seperate fro vs all auerise
the which is the rote of all euill, and
causith vs to be accompanyd with lybe-
ralitye, wherby lyghtly we get the good
wyl of euery man: they cause vs lybe-
rally to spend that we haue, wherby we
are praysed & fast tyed to euery man w
good loue, so that in what soeuer necessi-
te we fale in, we shall receyue ayde and
seruice, and not alonely they profyt vs,
as in causynge vs to vse lyberalitye as
we ought to do, but therby they cause
vs to be moche set by and made of, and
what surer thynge can be then to haue
the good wyl of the people. The .xiii.
reasonne is womē encrease and kepe our
goodes and rentes, and that we haue
goten, they conferue it with greate dy-
lygence. The .xiiii. is the clenness that
they procure vs to vse aswell in our per-
sones as in our habylmentes, and in
euery

euery thyng that we medle with . The
xv. is for þ good byngynge vp of chyl-
dren, the which is a princypall thyng,
whereof men haue greate nede, for if we
be well brought vp we shall vse all cur-
tesye, and eschew the contrary, therby
we shal honour the small, and serue the
great, & not alonely they cause vs to be
well brought vp but also to be belouyd,
for yf we entreate euery man as he de-
seruyth, they shall entreate vs accor-
dyng to our desertes. The .xvi. is they
cause vs to be galante and freshe in our
aperell, for theyr sakes we study how to
aperell vs, and what we may were, and
for theyr sakes we aray vs by good in-
dustry, and crafte to bynge our perso-
nages in to a dewe forme, þ which some
tyme peraduenture nature denyeth, then
to hyde that deforme, crafte must be
vsyd and occupied, deuyng the ape-
rell accor dyng, some tyme long, some
tyme shorte, some tyme streyght, some
tyme wyde, as best may become the per-
sone

sone, these galantes for loue of women
deuise new entayles, and cuttes with
discrete borders, and dyuerse other new
inuenions. The.xvii. reasone is often
tymes they cause musyke to be hadde of
all instrumētes, & many of them occupy
the same, so that we ioy of they? swete
armony, for they? sakes are songe these
swete romanse in as subtile wayes as
can be deuysyd. The.xviii. is they cause
our force and strength to encrease, for
when men come befoze ladyes, and gen-
tle women, they enforce them to cast sto-
nes, barres, and dartes, and to wrestyll,
cynne, and leape, and the syght of the
women vttereth they? feates with moze
force, then yf the women were absent, &
all this is to thentent, to atayne þ loue
of they? lady. The.xix. is they quykken
the inwarde spirite, aswell as the body
for if we know that our louer take plea-
sure in any thyng, other in synginge,
daunsyng or playeng, vpon any instru-
mente, they wyl then applye them selfe
to

to lerne it and to trauayle they? sprytes
there aboute, and though they were but
dull befoze, yet with suche diligence,
they wyl attayne to the perfection of þ
arte, therby to gyue recreacion to they?
louer. The. xx. and the last reason is by-
cause we be womens chyldren by the
whiche respect we are most bounde to
women, rather then for any other cause
sayd befoze or to be sayde. For pleasure
of womē, are ordyned these iustes royall
and pompeous tourneis and these ban-
kettes, and ioyfull feastes, for them is
begonne thynges of gentlenes, there is
no cause why they shulde be by vs dis-
prayed. O trespas of greuous chasty-
ment, what woman is there in all the
woylde that wyl not haue compassiō of
the cryes & lamentacions that we shew
them, or of the paynefull wordes and
syghes that we vtter befoze them, or of
the swerynges and promyses that we
make to them, or what is she, that wyl
not beleue the stedfast fapth that we pro-
myse

myse, what harte can be withoute frute
herynge the commendable prayses that
we gyue them by ferme harte and wyll,
and by none adulasiō noꝝ malyce. what
woman is she of so ferme and stable a
mynde that can defende her selfe, yf she
be contynually pursued, consyderynge
the deades of armes, wherwith they be
fought withall, though they make but
small defence, it is no meruayll, and yet
suche as can not defend them selfe ought
to be praysed & namyd pitefull, rather
then to be reputed culpable.

The pꝛofe by ensample, of the
bounte & goodnes of women
shewed by Lereano

Thentent that lawdable vertue
of þ̄ scr̄ femenyng, shuld be declared
accoꝝdyng to theyꝝ desertes. I pur
pose to alledge certayne ensāples, how
beit my desyre was to haue restyde with
this that I haue sayde to thentent that
my ignozante and rude tonge shulde
not haue troubled theyꝝ clere bounte by
reasone

reason of my vnwyledome: howbeit my
prayse can not encrease theyr goodnes,
nor my dysprayse can not abate theyr
proportye, if I shuld make reherfall of
the chaste virgins tyme past and present
I hadde nede to haue the deuyne reue-
lation, for therbe and haue ben so many
that no humayne wytte can cōprehende
them. And to be breue I shall shew of
some as I haue redde, aswell crystened
as gentyls & iewes. I wyl make ensam-
ple by the few, to cōprehende the vertue
of the mo, as for suche as be auctorysed
to be sayntes, I wyll not speke of them
for .iii. causes. The fyrste bycause it is
manifeste, and openly knowen, then it
were but synplenes & waste to reherce
it. The .ii. cause is ꝑ chyrch gyueth them
vniuersall prayse. The .iii. bycause I
amde not worthy to put in my rude wo-
des, theyr excellent goodnes, & specially
of our blessed lady. All the doctours and
deuoute contemplatyues, coulde neuer
speke nor prayse her as she is worthy
no:

noꝛ reche to the lest parte of her excellēt.
wherfoꝛe I wyll come lower and declare
of them that I may spek moꝛe liberally.
I wyll begynne at the chaste gentiles,
Lucrecia chiefe crowne of the nacion ro-
mayne wyfe to Colatyne, knowynge her
selfe enforſed & defowled by Traquyne,
ſhe ſayde to her huſband Colatyne, dere
ſpouſe, know foꝛ trouth that a ſtrange
man hath defowled thy bedde. Howbeit
though my body be enforſed, my harte
is innocent, though I be fre fro the tref-
pace, I can not be aſſoyled fro y^e payne,
and to thentent that no lady noꝛ other
woman hereafter by myne enſample
ſhuld erre, and ſo with ſpekynge of thoſe
woꝛdes with a ſharpe ſwoꝛd ſhe ryd her
owne lyfe. Alſo Porcia who was dought-
ter to the noble Catone and wyfe to the
noble & vertuos Bruto, and when ſhe
knew the deth of her huſband ſhe tooke
ſuch greuous ſozow, that to the ende of
her lyfe, ſhe dyd eate hote coles, to make
ſacrefice of her ſelfe. Penolope wyfe to
Ulixeſ

Ulixes, she knowyng that he went in to
warre agaynst the Trojans, knowyng
that yonge men of Italy were soze ena-
mored vpon her beautie, in the absence
of her husband, dyuerce desyzed to mary
with her. And she desyrynge to kepe her
chastitie, & to defende her selfe agaynst
them, sayd how she wold make a webbe
as ladies vsed in those dayes: & when it
was finished, she promysed her wowers
then to accomplish theyr desyres. And
when she hadde graunted this, by her
subtile wyt asmoche as she made in the
day, she brake it agayn in 8 nyght. And
by that meanes she draue of the season
xx. yere, and then Ulixes came home a
lone olde & in greate pouertie, yet the
chast lady receued hym ad though he
hadde come in greate prosperitie. Also
Julia doughter to Cesar first emperour
beinge wyfe to Pompey she loued hym
so entietly, that on a day she syndynge
his clothes bloudy, beleupnge that he
hadde bene dede fell sodenly to the erth

¶ 1.

and

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hadde come in greate prosperitie. Also
Julia doughter to Cesar first enperour
beinge wyfe to Pompey she loued hym
so entietly, that on a day she fyndynge
his clothes bloudy, beleuyng that he
hadde bene dede fell sodenly to the erth

¶ .i.

and

and dyed for sorow. ! Atrenisa amonge
other mortayll creatures worthy to be
prayed, she beinge married to Mansall
kyng of Acaria she loued hym with so
ferme a harte that when he was dede,
she gaue hym sepulture, within her
owne brest, she brente his bones, and y
ashes of them she dranke litle and litle,
and the seremonies made of his obsequy
thinkinge that she wold go to hym, flew
her selfe with her owne handes. Argea
doughter to kyng Adastro and wyfe to
Polymytes sonne to Egisto kyng of
Thebes, when Polimytes was slaine in
a batayll by the handes of his brother,
she knowinge therof (without feare of
her enemyes, or of any other wyld
bestes, nor fearynge the emperours law)
wente oute of Athenes in the nyght in
to the felde, and found oute amonge the
dede bodies her husbandes body, and
carped it in to the citie, and caused it to
be brent accordyng to the custome with
bytter weppynge, puttyng the ashes in
to a

to a cofer of golde, and then promysed
her lyfe to perpetuall chafteite. Ipolo of
Grece faylynge by thy fee, by her euyl
fortune ſhe was taken by her enemyes,
and they wolde haue enforſed her, and
ſhe to conſerue her chafteite, went to the
one ſide of the ſhypp, and wyllingly fell
ouer the boorde in to the ſee, and there
was drowned. Howbeit the fame of her
dead was not greatly laudable. No leſſe
worthy of prayſe was the wyfe of Ame-
de kynge of Theſale, ſhe knoweng by ſ
aunſwere of the god Apollo, that her
huſbnad ſhulde receyue the deth, with-
oute voluntarily ſome other perſonne
wolde dye for hym, and ſo wyllingly to
ſaue the kynge, ſhe diſpoſed her ſelfe to
dye. Now of the naciō of the Iues. Sa-
ra wyfe of father Abraham, when ſhe
was taken, and in the power of kynge
Pharao, defendynge her chafteite with
the armes of prayer, deſyred god to dely-
uer her oute of his handes. And when
the kyng thought to haue fulfilled his

enyll dead, god herpnyng her petecion, the
kyng waxyde seke, in suche wyse that
then he knew well it was for his wantō
despyre. Then he commaundyd to delyuer
her quyte woutē any spotte of vnclen-
nis. Delboza enduyd with so many ver-
tues, deseruyd to haue the spirite of pro-
phesye, she shewyd not alonely her bouite
in artes femenyne, but also in stronge
batayles feyghtynge agaynste her ene-
myes with a valyante and a vertuous
harte. And she was of suche excellence
that. xl. yere she rulyd the people of the
iues. Hestere brought in captyuyte in to
Babilone for her vertue & fayernes she
was take to wyfe to kyng Assuara who
at that tyme rulyd a. C. xxvii. yeres
And by her merites & prayers delyuered
the iues, fro theyr captyuyte. Also the
mother of Sampson despyrnyng to haue
a sonne, deseruyd by her vertue that an
angell shewyde the natyuyte of Samp-
sone, Elisabeth wyfe to Sacarias, as
he was the very seruant of god, for her
deseruyng

deseruyng she had a sonne sanctified or
he was borne which was saynte John.
Now of olde stories of cristen women,
I can not wyte them at length: but to
be breue to shew some of a latter tyme
of the nacion of Castile. Don Marya
Coronell by whome beganne y lynage
of the Coronelles, bycause her chastite
was praysede and her bountie not hyd,
she was accusyd of a cryme, wherfore
wyllynghly, she bzente her selfe haupng
lesse feare of the deth then to be founde
culpable. Also Done Isabell mother to
the mayster of the order of Calatrane.
Done Rodigo and mother to .ii. erles,
of Urema, Done Alonso & Don John,
she beyng a widowe fell in to a sikenes,
and the phisycions to procure her helth
sayd how she coude not lyue withoute
she maryed, or had the company of man
then her chyl dren knowynge what case
she was in, despyd and counsayled her
to take an husbande, she aunswerd and
sayd, by the grace of god that shall I

¶.iii. neuer

neuer do for I had rather dye, to be cal-
led mother to suche chyliden as ye be,
then to lyue and to be called wyfe to a
nother husband. And with this chaste
consyderacyon, and by the pleasoure of
god, when she dyed, ther were mysteries
sene of her saluacion. Also Don Maria
gracia the blessed woman bozne in Tol-
ledo of the gretest lynage in all the citie,
she wolde neuer mary, keppunge her byr-
ginite. iiii. scoze yere, at whose deth were
sene dyuerce myracles, the whiche yet
in Colledo be had in perpetuall remem-
brance. What may a man say of the
pure byrgyns of gentiles. Atrisalya
Sybela bozne in the citie of Babilone
for her merites she pꝛophesied by diuine
reuelacion many thinges to come after
always conseruinge her byrginytie tyll
she dyed. Pallas & Mynerua fyrst sene
about the ryuer of Tritonia, newe inue-
ters of many offices perteynyng to the
femynyne sex, and also to men, alwayes
lyupng as byrgins. And so ended Ata-
lanta

lanta she that fyrst strake the porke of
Calydonia, in birgynite and noblenes
she cōtynuyd. Canulla doughter to Ma-
cabeo kyng of þe Bostos, she dyd no lesse
then other dyd in keepyng of her birgy-
nite. Calādea, Vesta, Clodya, Romaine
they kepte the same law till theyr dethe.
yf it were not to length my trouble yf I
shuld lyue this M. pere, I coulde not
refute the ensāples, that I could reherce:
therfoze Tesio accoꝝdyng as thou haste
harde, thou and suche other as do blas-
pheme the nature femenyne, are well
woꝛthy of iuste punysion, the which I
counsail the not to abide to receyue it
of a nother, but rather punyshe thy selfe
yf thou do it of malyce condemne the
shame therof.

¶ The auctoꝝ.

Al suche as were pꝛesent had great
maruayll of his woꝛdes sepyng by
his spekyng to be so nere the deth
as he was foꝝ when he had ended his
woꝛdes, his tonge began to fayll, and
M.iiii. his

his syght nere lost, then his seruauntes
began to crye, and wayle, and his frend
begane to wepe, and his subiectes cry-
ynge oute in the streates so that all ioy
was turned to sorow, and the lady his
mother beyng absent, for his sekene-
was kept fro her knowledge, howbeit
she gyuynge more credyte to her feare,
then to that was shewyd her with bold-
nes of maternall loue, she departed fro
her owne howse and came to Susa, and
when she entered the gate euery persone
that she saw gaue her euydence of do-
lour with wordes of extreme passyon,
rather then with wordes well ordered,
she herynge how her sone Aereano was
in the extremities of deth, her strenght
fayled her so that she fell downe to the
erth in a trance, & so longe she laye that
euery man thought that þe mother and
the sonne shulde take theyr sepulture at
one tyme: howbeit with harde remedy
she came agayne to her selfe, and then
went to her sone and when she saw hym
in that

in that astate, with greate wepyng and
passyon of deth she sayd as folowith.

The complaynte of
Lereanos mother.

Lcreano, the myzth, comforte, rest
and supporte of myne olde dayes
O swete companion to my wyll,
this day I ame lyke to leue calling the
any moze sonne, noz thou to call me mo-
ther, of this I haue greate feare by the
sygnes that I se of thy shorthe dayes, of-
ten tynes I hadde suche dremes, where
with I haue bene in greate feare all the
nyght durynge, other tynes, when I
haue ben in my oratory, prayng for thy
helth my harte hath faylede me, and a
colde sweat hath taken me in suche ma-
ner, that of along tyme I wyll not what
to do, also þe belles haue cretified me of
thyne euill, for on a day as I came out
of my chamber ther came to me a dogge
and made sodenly suche a howlyng that
for feare ther of, I lost the strength of
my body, and could not speke, noz could

M. v. not

not remoue oute of the place that I was
in. And therby I gaue moze credence
to my suspecte, then to thy messengers,
and to satysfie my selfe, I ame come
to se the. O the lyght of my syghte and
lyfe. O blyndnes of the same if I se þe dye
& I can se none occasiō of thy deth, þe
byg in age to lyue, þe hast alwayes ben
fearefull of god, & louer of all vertues,
and enemye to all vyces, frēde to frēdes
and belouyde, thynke for certane, this
day þe force of thyne euyl fortune takith
away the ryght of reaso, syn thou dyest
of thy tyme, withoute any infyrmytie.
Happy be they, that be of low and base
cōdiciō, and rude of wytte for they feale
no thyng, but take euery thyng as it
comyth. And vnhappy be they that by
subtyll wytte and sharpe vnderstādyng
know euery thyng. wolde to god thou
werte one of the rude and dull, for I had
rather to be callyd mother to a rude per
sone haupnge thy lyfe, then to haue thy
deth, beyng neuer so wyse. O cruell deth
enemy

enemy to all mortal creatures thou wilt
perdone no synners, no: as for all the imo-
centes, thou arte suche a traytour, that
no man can make defence agaynst the,
thou thretenyst age, and takest awaye
pough: the one thou sleyste by malyce,
and y other for enuy, though thou tary
longe, yet thou wylte not forget to come
at laste, thou gouernyst thy selfe with
oute law or reasone, it had ben better for
the to haue cōserupd my sonne beyng of
xx. yerres rather then to leue me his mo-
ther of .lxx. yerres of age, why doste thou
turne y ryght vpse down. I haue lyued
longe inough, and he is yong yet for to
lyue: perdon me y I thus say to the, for
thou by thy cruell warkes causyste do-
lours, yet agayne thou gyuist comforte
takng away them shortly, that thou
leuist behynde them, that thou takest
away: for the which, yf thou wylte so do
with me I were moche bofid to the, that
I myght go with my sonne Lereano,
but yf he myght lyue, and I to dye, it
shulde

Shulde be my comeforte. ¶ Some what
shall become of my age remembryng the
ende of thy yough, yf I lyue it shalbe ra-
ther to wepe and bewayll my synnes,
then by reasone to haue any wyll or de-
syre to lyue with what thyng coulde I
receyue moze cruell payne, then to lyue
long, thyne euyl is very great, that ther
canne be found no remedye, what auay-
lyth now the strength of thy body, or
the vertue of thyne harte, or the hardy-
nes of thy corage, all these thynges that
shulde auayll yf saylythe, yf for the price
of loue, thy lyfe myght be bought, I
wolde desyre deth to do his offyce vpon
me, and to delyuer the guyte fro hym,
but thy fortune wyll not suffer it, nor I
cā not therfore sorow shalbe my drynke
and my mete, and my thought my slepe
vntyll the tyme that the force of dethe,
and my desyre shall byynge me to my
sculture.

¶ The auctoz.

The

The wepyng that Lereanos mother
made, encreasyde the payne of all
them that were presente, and all
wayes Lereano had Laureola in his
remembzance, of that was past he had
but small memozy, and cōsyderpng that
he shulde ioy but a shorte space with the
syght of the .ii. letters that Laureola
hadde sente hym, he wiste not how to
order them, when he thought to bzeke
them, he thought he shuld offende ther
by Laureola, in castynge away suche
wordes of so worthy prce as was wyrtē
in them, and when he thought to put in
to any of his seruaūtes hādes, he fearyd
leste they shulde be sene, wherby perell
myght folow, then in all these doubtēs
he toke the sureste way, he callyd for a
cup of water, and then bzeke the lettres
in to small peces, and so sette vp in his
bed, and dranke vp the water with the
peces of the letters, and so he satisfyde
therby his wyll and then drawynge to
his ende warde, he cast his syght vpon
me and

me & sayde, frēde now all myne euylles
be endyd, and therwith gaue vp his lyfe
in witnes of his true fayth. Then what
sorrowe I felte, and what I dyd is lyghtly
iudged, the wepynges that was there
made of his deth, are of suche esteeme,
that me thynke it cruelty to wyte it: the
his obsequyes and buryals were done
most honourably, accoꝝdyng to the de-
serdes of his vertues, & as for my selfe,
with a better wyll I wolde haue deper-
tyd this lyfe, then to haue tarped on the
perth alpyue: so with sighes I went my
way, and depertyd wyth wepyng, and
with lamentacion I soze complaynyde,
and with suche thoughtes I wente to
my lodgyng. And when I saw that the
consentyng and desirynge of my deth
could not remedy hym that was passyd,
noꝝ could be no comforte to my selfe, the
I determyned to deperte, and to go in
to myne owne countrey, and yet fyrst I
purposed to go to the courte to here and
se what was sayd for þe deth of Acreano
and

and to se how Laureola toke the mater:
Thus I thought to go thither, what
for this cause, & for other busynes that
I had ther to do with some of my frēdes
also I purposyd to speke with Laureola
if I myght, to know if I myght se in her
any repentance, and to se what true lo-
uers wolde say of her crueltye vsyde a
gainst hym, that deseruyd hygh reward
And also I was glad to deperte fro the
place wher as Lereano dyed to put par-
te of my sorow out of my mynde. So I
came to the courte more accompanied
with sorow, then with any desire to lyue
reimembryng how he that made me be-
gynne this mater, was in his sepulture.
At the palayce I was receyuyde with
moche heuyenes of many that knew the
deth of Lereano, then I respyted to suche
as were his frende, the secretenes of his
deth Then I went in to y hall, where I
was acustumed to speke with Laureola
to se if I myght se what there she made.
And I who by reason of soze wepyng
hadde

had nere lost my syght, I lokyd all aboute but I culde not se her, yet when she saw me, lyke a dyscrete ladye suspectynge that I wolde haue spoken with her wenynge that I hadde not seen her she turued towarde her chambze and as she came by me. I spied well it was she, who hadde brought Lereano fro his lyfe & me almoste withoute knowledge then I with soze weppynge and payneful sighes began to speke to her in this maner.

The auctoz to Laureola.

I Ady moche moze it hadde bene better for me to haue lost my lyfe, then to haue knowen your cruelnes and small pytie, I say this bycause I had rather with reason hane praysted your gentlenes, with seinge you to haue satisfied the seturpe that hath bene done to you by Lereano, then to prayse your beautie & great deserupnge gyuyuge dethe to hym that so often tymes with so good will to do you serurpe hath despyred to dye, but syn your mynde was to
gyue

gyue hym the deth, ye haue not beggled
hym noꝛ me, foꝛ ye haue payed hym ther
with, ye haue bleynd the clennes of your
lynage. Remembꝛe that suche as be of
so hygh blud as ye be, are asmoꝛch boũd
to satisfy the lest seruyce that is done to
them, aswel as to kepe and defend theyꝝ
honour. And certaynly I say that if ye
had sene his deth, all the dayes of your
lyfe, ye wolde wepe. Remembꝛe now
what charge of conscience ye bꝛought
hym in, foꝛ when he died where as he
shulde haue had most memory vpon
hys soule, and what shuld haue ben
done with his body, he then remembꝛed
moꝛe the letters that ye had sent hym,
the whiche he toke and tare in peces, &
dꝛank them in water because they shuld
neuer be sene, and bycause he wold carꝝ
with gym some thyng that had bene
yours, to the entent that ye shulde haue
moꝛe compassiõ of his deth then ye had
of his lyfe. I shew you foꝛ certayne thus
I saw hym dye, by cause ye shewyd hym

A. l.

no

nd compassion. Now ye shew your selfe
to be soꝝ that in the absence of your
small loue was cleue forgotten. O how
many now do wepe for his deth, and yet
they know not the cause. But as to me
(fro whom the secretnes was not hiden)
then moche moꝝe it muste nedes greue
me, remembrynge, how in your handes
restyd his lyfe, and seyng your crueltie
and his small remedy, ye caused hym to
dye & cause his mother to lyue in sorow
bycause she can not dye, and as for me
lyuyng, I am alwayes dyeng: and I
beleue ye couypte not gretly your owne
lyfe, to remembre what ye haue done,
but that ye know well there be but few
persons that know what ye haue done.
I thynke ye feare but litle the fame of
your euyl name, for ye se clerely how I
am lyke to dye, therfoꝝe ye feare not
I shuld publishe your crueltie, thynke
not that I am in feare to say thus to
you, for yf I trouble you with the quali
tie, content you then with the quancite,
syn

syn I haue so greate reason to speake,
and not to ende properly, and for this
my boldenes. yf I deserue any punyshe
ment, cause me to be slain, for ye shal bet
ter reward me with deth, then to suffre
me to lyue in this case.

¶ The auctoz.

Soze troubelyd stode Laureola, yet
for all that euery I sayd, her face
shewyd no alteration of her hart,
howbeit lyke a discret lady, resteynyng
wepynge dissimuled her sorow, and not
blamyng my boldenes with an heuy
chere she aunswered me as foloweth.

¶ Laureola to the auctoz.

Iwolde I had asmoche wisdom to
satisfye the, as I haue reason to
discharge my selfe, and yf it were so
thou shuldest fynd me aswel discharged
as I repute the dplygent. Thou sayest
thou woldest thou haddest asmoche cause
to prayse my pytye, as thou hast cause
to blame my crueltie, and on that condi
cion I desyppst no lenger to lyue: thou
A.ii. blamest

blamyſt me ſayng how I thought to ſle
Aereano, and that begylyde hym, and
weryde the. I wolde thou knewyſte I
neuer thought to gyue hym the deth,
foz doyng as thou ſayſt, what is it that
I haue done, I neuer bzake any promiſe
what do I owe the oꝝ hym, that thou
dyddeſt trawayll foꝝ: oꝝ what dyde I to
ſatiſſye thyne entenſiõ, I dyde put hym
without doubte, and the woute charge,
if I had ben beleuyd, then myne is but
a ſmall charge: thou ſaiſt I ought to re-
garde the clenness of my lynage, lokyng
pꝛofoundly theron, hath cauſyde me to
do as I haue done, thou knowyſt well,
all women are moze bounde to regarde
theyꝝ honoꝝs, rather thẽ to accompliſh
any amozous wyll oꝝ appetight. Then
ſyn all women are bounde to this how
moche moze then by reaſone, are thoſe
boũde that be dyſcēdyd of a blude roiall
thynk not that I receyue any pleaſure
foꝝ the deth of Aereano, noꝝ beleue not
that it cā ſomoch greue þe, as it ſoꝝowith
me

me how be it the feare of my honour, &
the feare of my father dyd moze in me,
then the cuyl wyll that I bare hym, noz
thynke not that the knowledge of his
seruice, was forgotten, but that I gaue
hym great thank, and yf w any reward
I myght haue payed hym, sauyng my
honour, it shuld haue ben done, and cost
hym nothyng then both he and thy selfe
shulde asmoche haue prayse as now
thou blamyte me for vnkynndnes in his
lyfe without the losse of lyfe I could not
rewarde hym accor dyng to his desire, I
wyll thou know, that his deth causith
me to lyue alwayes dyenge, now shalte
thou se how moche it sorowith me and
how moche he pleasde me, now thou
shalt iudge what loue I bare hym, and
know yf I dyd well to suffer hym to dye
thou knowist well that with his lyfe he
myght haue wonne, that by his deth he
dysparyd and lost it, but syn I can not
now paye noz rewarde hym, I shall sa-
tisfye the & make the bere witnes, yf I

R.iii. reward

rewarde not seruice as I ought to do .

¶ The auctoz.

She endyd her wordes with suche heuynes , that she coulede scante make an ende for sorow: then she went fro me subbyng, and soze wepyng wherby her tonge was soze troubelyd, & chaunged colour, and so went in to her chamber with soze inwarde lamentaciō, for feare she shuld haue ben hard. Then I wēt to my lodgyng w so great sorow that often tymes I was desperate of my lyfe, with myne owne deth I wold haue ben reuengyd if I coulede, not puttyng my selfe in dyspayre. And thus beyng alone withoute pleasure aswell as with oute frendes to speke vnto, for weynyng I layd me downe, and as though I had sene Lereano befoze me presente, I sayd to hym as folowith .

¶ The auctoz to Lereano.

Lereano enemye to thy aduēture, and frende to thy myshape, who can be cause of thy lyfe with this ambassade

ambassade, as I was cause of thy deth
w my message, for now if thou knewest
the repentance of Laureola, thou wol-
dest change the glory cell of pall, for thy
lyfe temporal: for by thy deth, thou hast
lost thy desyre, if thou haddest sayd thy
lyfe without doubte, thou shouldest haue
wonne, that by thy deth thou hast lost.
Oyd I nat say to the, when thou lay a
dycnge, that by thy deth thou shouldest
lese all, and by thy lyfe thou myghtest
attayne to thy desyre. O Unhappy & I
am, & I were not in þ place where as I
myght shew the all that Laureola hath
sayd to me, and of the thought that she
takith for lesynge of thy lyfe, though w
the deth thou hast wonne the desire of
thy will, by that she shewith now, thou
oughtest to thynke thy deth well besto-
wyd, great ioy I shuld recene, if I knew
that thou dyddeste here me and beleue
me: for thou maist se that alonely her re-
pentance suffyseth to pay þ thy reward.
yf thou haddeste lpyde, thou shuldeste
R.iiii. haue

haue had no cause to haue be in trouble
now thy payne shalbe withoute hope of
sufferance, now thou nediste not to be
troubly with thy lyfe, nor take no roye of
thy deth. What welth shuld it be for
me, if god wold suffer me to lese my lyfe
to recouer thyne, why doth god leue me
here without the, who can lese the, and
lyue after, wold to god, that the good
will that I haue in thy lyfe that thou
myghtest pay me with my deth & which
I hope thou shuldest do, if thou haddest
as good wyll to se me, as I haue desire
to serue &. Thus I wyll leue, any fur-
ther to trouble the.

¶ The auctoꝝs dreame.

Thus I was so wery that I left my
talkynge, and as he that wyll not
what he dyd, I fell in a slombere
and amonge other thynges I beganne
to dreame, wherby I had moze payn then
pleasure. I dreemt that I saw Aereano
befoze me aparelled after this maner, he
had on his hedde a honet of scarlet with
a grene

a grene ryband of an euyl colour, with
a woꝛde enbꝛowdered sayeng thus: hope
is dead with his colour slayne by your
vnyndnes, and when he came nere me,
I sawe he had on a shyꝛte wrought with
blak sylke with a boꝛder of letters, say
enge: encreasynge my stedfastnes, at the
ende I found deth. Also he had a Doblet
of yeolow saten enbꝛowdered with this
woꝛde: my passion with my ioye satis-
fied, in doyng that I haue done. Also
he had on a iaket of blake veluyt with
a boꝛder of saten of the same colour, and
theron a wytyng that sayd: in my sted-
fastnes shewed is myne euyl, and your
trespace. Also he had a gerdell of golde
with letters reportynge: moze rather
was my deth, then lyfe, if ye wolde be
seruyd therewith. He had also a dager, &
knyues and pomell of asure, wth letters
sayeng, ryght soze was the passion that
ye gaue me, and yet ye neuer repentyde
it. Also he had a swoꝛde with the sheeth &
gyꝛdell of sylke enbꝛowderyd wth this
R. v. woꝛde

woꝛde (gyuyn to my lyfe such toꝛment)
that dyng and lyuynge I was content.
Also his hosen one white a nother blew
wth this woꝛd: chaste ielus of my lyfe &
could not be sufferyd to serue. And ouer
all this he had a cappe of blacke embꝛow
deryd with darke tawny with a woꝛde
that sayd: heuynes can not so trauayll
me, that it shulde chāge my stedfastnes.
His slippers were embꝛowdered wth smal
letters that sayde: myne euyls are at
an ende foꝛ my seruyce, and denyed me
is the benyfite. And on his gloues was
wꝛiten: thus begynneth and endeth the
name that most deseruyth. So when I
had at length regarded his aparell, and
the stedfaste thoughtes that by lykely-
hod he enduryd, I behelde his face, and
I saw his iesture so beautefull that it
semed he had neuer taken thought, and
with an amorous semblant. After he
had curtesly salutyd me with the same
voyce, as he was wonte to speke, me
thought he began to say in this maner.

Here

Hereano to the auctoꝝ.

Thou my true frende, thou hast thought that my pꝛesence hath bene longe fro the so that I could not tell what þy dyddest noꝝ hard what thou hast spoken, thynke not so, foꝝ I shall neuer be so farre fro the, but that I shall alwayes be ioyned with the, foꝝ though by aduenture in my lyfe I departed fro the, neuer in the deth I shall departe fro the, I shall alwayes be ioyned with the. And all that thou hast sayd of Laureola and of me I was pꝛesent and hard it, god knowith if I myght I wold haue spoken to the, but I could not, noꝝ feare wold not leue me, foꝝ I certifie the that this that I do, though my speche be short, yet it toꝛmenteth me, and therefore acoꝝdꝫnge to the trust that I haue in thy great vertue I wyll not put the to the payne with long woꝝdes therfoꝝe I wyll goo to the effect of thy woꝝdes and to my aunswere. Thou sayest thou woldest gladly put me agayne in to life
as

as thou puttedest me to deth, beleue nat
that thy message gaue me the deth, no;
I in the begynnyng can not be excused
fro coming to this ende: thou sayst thou
woldest that I were in the dysposicion
that I myght ioy me for the repentynge
of Loureola. I can not thanke the ther-
fore, bycause I can not make þ a recom-
pence, for the gretest seruice that I could
make is not so greate, but the lest deser-
uynge that I haue receyued of the is
moche gretter. As for her rewardes I
desyre them not, for I can haue as now
no ioye of them, though I desyre them
neuer somoche, and though now with
her repentynge she thynk to satysfie me
yet her cruelnes was so trobelous, that
though she dyd more, yet I can not be
rewardyd. Thou sayst I shuld thynke
my dethe well employede, syn I haue
wonne by her that without her I lost,
now wold I do it, if lyfe were lefte with
me, for though I myght ioy therewith
what profyt shuld it be to me to beleue
this

this without I myght se what she doth,
and I beleue if she myght se me agayne
to lyue, she wolde gyue me moze payne
and lesse hope, but the best to be delyue-
ryd fro hope is deth, for it is better to
suffer a good deth, then to endure with
an euill lyfe, beleue not but and I had
beleuyd that I shuld haue seruyd her,
better lyuyng then to dye, I wold not
haue dyed yet, but syn that with my lyfe
I could not preuayll, I thought then
with deth to remedy me, thynke not that
I was so farre withoute wytte, that I
knew not that it was good to lyue to ser-
ue her, though I coulde haue no ioy of
her, but I could neuer know by her an-
swere, that she was cōtēt w my seruyce
as y knowist ryght well, but she dyd let
me dye, for I desiryd lyfe to leue me, also
y seist that y desirest to recouer me & to
lese thy lyfe, I beleue y, and I thāke y
therof, though I cā do none other thynge
y desirest me to pray for thy deth, bycause
we myght lyke frendes ioy to gether
syn

syn we could not in our lyfe be not of þ
beleue for I had rather her spekyng of
thy lyfe withoute syght of the, then to
know thou shuldest be with me dede,
howbeit by thy deth thou shuldest but
change thy lyfe, for thy fame shuld ne-
uer dye but euer lyue, thus I wyll leue
the, not bicause I wyll go farre fro the.
wherfoze I requyre the take it for none
euyl that I speke no more to the, for
though I wolde I can not.

¶ The auctoz.

When Lereano had made an ende of
his wordes I thought to haue aun-
swerd hym, but then in my dreame
me thought I saw Laureola entre into
my chambze as vlysyble, as though I
had bene wakynge me thought she was
in a strange aparel, and with a new com-
panyon, and in y regardynge of so new
a vision I left aunswerynge Lereano,
and began to marke the maner of her
aparell, and I so regarded her, that I
left lokyng vpon Lereano. She hadde
vpon

bpō her hed a fresh atper frete & enbrow
dered with letters sayeng: my cruell con
dicion gyueth no deth to seruyce, no
yet rewarde. Her smocke wrought with
whyte sylke tyed with letters sayeng:
thy deth is so fastened to my lyfe that I
can not scape without deth. Her kertell
of blacke saten with a folpage of tawny
w letters sayeng: thy stedfastnes myght
haue gyuen me suche payne, that at the
ende it myght haue wonne me. Her gyz
dell was wrought with thzedes of gold
reporstynge: More rather shulde haue
bene my glozy with thy lyfe, then with
thy deth. Her mantel was of .ii. colours
the one parte red, the other blew, with a
wrytynge that sayde: now ioye can not
enioye me without great thought. She
had a tabard of blew russet with letters
sayeng, with thy deth my memozy is
certayne so that lyuyng my glozy is
dede. Also on her gloues was wryten
thus, with that I began I make an ende
though I deserue no dety: her slippers
were

were embowdered with this word: I
haue moze payne for thy payne then for
myne own, yet moze deserueth my sha-
me. So when I had well regarded her
aparell, and marked well the significa-
cions of the wyptynges, I saw how w
moche sorow and smal pleasure (by sem-
blant moze lykely to dye then to lyue)
she turned her face towardes Lereano
wher as he stode and began to say in
this maner.

¶ Laureola to Lereano.

If Rende Lereano neuer thynke that
the force of thy strenght for so litle
an incouenience, that I shuld con-
sent to lose, for as thou hast sayd to be
desyrous to serue me, moze honour þ
shuldest haue done me in luyng, then
I to gyue þ deth, for surely thy wekenes
nor thy payne, nor yet thy loue coulde
not make me beleue, that thou shuldest
haue died, therfore thou maist clerely se
what euill thou hast done, yf þ thynk,
that I dyd was to moeke the or to proue
the

the, what errour then I haue done to
thy purpose, yf true louers can not suf-
fre, how shall they come to they? desy? s
he that can not suffre, can not ioy, noz
but seldome attayne to his glozy, there
is no vertue, but in sufferynge of payne
therby to haue ioye of they? good aduen-
ture, thou oughtest moze to be blamed,
beynge discrete fo? that thou hast done,
then to be praysed fo? a trew louer. And
beleue surely that yf I had not ben surer
of thy fayth I wolde haue gyuen no cre-
dence to thy stedfastnes noz yet haue
gyuen the none occasion at the begyn-
nyng to haue come to this ende, and
moze to shew the, the trouth, then to re-
warde the of thy payne, I make the sure
yf I had beleued that þ? shuldest haue
died I wold rather haue taken the deth
my selfe, then to haue consented to thy
deth, fo? it shuld haue bene greate con-
science to me to haue ssuered the to dye,
fo? the trust that I had, in that thou
dydest fo? my scrupce caused me in ma-

D. i.

ues

ner to beleue thy wytyng, but then
agayne the suretie þat I thought had ben
in thy wysdome and dyscrecion, caused
me to doubte it, and in this maner I
gaue more credence to thy discrecion,
then to thy determynd deth, Wherefore
it ought to haue suffysid the to remēber
in what case myne honour stode in and
perell of my lyfe, and to haue ben cōtent
to know that I ought the my fauour,
for thy euill greuyd me worse, the myne
owne, though I shewyd it not to the, if
thou wylte denye this, remember what
I was, and how small necessite I had
of thy seruice, ones wytyng to the shuld
haue sufficyd, though I dyd not put the
in no suretie for thou knewist well, that
my wytyng procedyd of no feare, but
of myne owne good wyll, & thou canste
not denye, whan of my message, thou
dyddeste dispaire and dyed, dyd I not
put the in hope when I sayde, that if I
luyd lenger then my father, then shul-
dest se how I wold rewarde thy deser-
uyng, so that thou shuldeste not blame

me for any unkindnes, I will speke no
more syn I shall no more se the, and by
cause I can receyue no more passiō then
I do for thy deth, therfore I make short
my wordes, though my payne be large
makynge the sure, I shall rewarde thy
soule, syn by myne unhap, by reason
of thy deth I can not rewarde thy body.

The auctor.

When Laureola spake these wordes
to Lereano I stode in a strange ma-
ner ryght sore abashyde to se her
greate pite and ioyninge her wysdome
and knowyng her wyl, and heyring of
her amorous reasones, these ouer came
my strength, though she spake not to
me, yet I praysede moche her sayeng,
though it auayld but lytle, howe be it
me thought her reasones were so iust &
Lereano coulde make none aunswere,
to satisfie them, not for the small cōfy-
dence that I hadde in his wisdome, but
bycause of the trouble of his spirytes in
seyngge present before hym the creature
D.ii whome

whome he most destryd, yet me thought
he cast vp his eyen to heuyn, and with
great curtesye he aunswere her in this
maner.

Clereano to Laureola.

Dece lady yf I had the wisdome
to shew you the case and quarell
of myne euill, aswell as I haue
reasone to suffer it, I coulde then aswell
aunswere you as if I myght lyue to ser
ue you, ye say, ye coulde neuer beleue y
the force of my dethe coulde ouercome
my strength. Haue no meruayl thereof,
for without my desyre I coulde fynde
no thying to defende me, but of that ye
blame me, ye deserue the payne, for ye
myght haue gryn me remedy, & ye co
sentyd that I shuld dye. And where as
ye say I erred, bycause I wold not defed
my selfe affermyng that I shuld haue
sought all the wayes therto, yf ye dyd it
to proue or to mocke me, iudge what ye
say, and beholde what case I was in, &
ye shall say that a harte full of sorowe
neuer

neuer takyth good newes: for certayne
and of euill newes it makith no doubt
and all this that ye haue sayd; I beleue
it trew, of your owne parte knowyng
your great cruelte and my small hap
thynke not that the small trauayll that
I toke was in defedyng of my lyfe, but
that it was to serue you, for it had ben
more payne for me to haue defedyd my
selfe fro the deth, then to suffre it, reme
braynge my selfe that I had no desire to
lyue, but alonely to serue you, and when
I saw that I cryde and that ye wolde
not of my seruice luyng, the I thought
to serue you with my deth, and thynke
not þ I ioy so litle of my deth, but that
I thynke it well employed, syn ye haue
now discoueryd your pitie, the which in
my lyfe allwayes ye denyed, ye say the
hope that ye gaue me shuld haue suffi
syd me, I denye it not accordyng to þ
ye be, for one loke of you had ben suffi
cient for any seruice that I could haue
done, for where as the lesse hope aperyd

D.iii. certayne

certayne, then moche moze was your
deseruyng, and of my deseruyng I was
in doubt: for the gretter that y^e reward
was, the lesse I beleuyd it, and therfore
I dyd as ye haue seen, And where as ye
speke of, is honour and lyfe, ye know
well for certayne, if ye forgette it not
what small charge it was to you, and
the experiēce which geueth me ye know
your selfe, y^e warkes are witnes, Also ye
say that at the begynnynge ye were w^o
oute any charge, and after what perell
I saw you in, and that I was redy to
haue gyuen occasion to haue brought
you in to suspect. I begyled you not,
for afterwarde I shewed your clenness
ye neuer sayde in your wrytyng any
thyng for certayne, but alwayes I was
in doubt of any rewarde, and the lesse
I hopyd the moze I feared, and thus
ye may se that by your owne excuse, ye
condempe your selfe, and syn I can not
serue you, I will not trouble you, nor
speke no moze, saue I desire of you in
reward

kewarde of my true faith, to let me kysse
your hand, bycause with that glory, I
may ioy in my deth, seying I could not
in my lyfe, noz ye wolde not suffer me,
and thus I wpll deperte fro you, bese-
chyng you as ye saye to haue remebrance
of my soule, syn ye haue forgotten my
body, noz I desire no moze to trouble
you, noz to be importunate with any
mo wordes, thus I make an ende, de-
syrnge you of perdone, & if any thyng
may pzeume to auayll for the ryches of
my seruice, that ye wpll remember my
trouth and good wyl, the which I sette
be foze your eyen, to thentent that of my
deth ye shulde haue some compassion,
syn ye had none of my lyfe.

The auctoz.

When this mater was thus passed
betwene them I stode and behelde
the curtesy that Lereano made and
the small thought that he shewed of his
deth for then he knowyng, that she was
no lesse sorowfull for his deth then hym
D.iiii. selfe

selfe was, therfore to thentent not to
trouble her, he sufferyd the payne, and
wolde speke no moze of his deth, and as-
moche as it pleased me to se them to ge-
ther, asmoche it greued me the remem-
brance of the deth of Aereano, and accor-
dyng to ther reasones, they ioyed me so
that I wolde they reasons shulde neuer
haue endyd, for then I knew well that
Aereano receyued glory to se her, and
Laureola receyued no payne to se hym,
though he were dede I desyre that they
speche shuld neuer haue endyd, nor they
syght depertyd a soulder, but alwayes
the thynges of pleasour, seldome endu-
rith longe. And as I thus lay dremyng
at last me thought I harde a heuy voice
that said, come away Aereano and tary
no longer. And then wth adolorous sygh
Aereano with his bonet in his hād wēt
to Laureola, and kyst her hand, and she
to gyue hym some glory sufferyd hym
the which in his lyfe tyme she wold ne-
uer do, and so kysyng her hand he sayd
O thou

O f deth f hast slayne my memory yet
to my deth is giue glorie, & ther w he va
nished away. And whē I saw I could se
hym no more, thē I regarded Laureola
to se what cōtenāce she made, I saw her
stād in greate heuynes, her euen bathed
in water, & her beautie fadyd of colour
pale, and wanne, and had lost her spech,
and I seynge her in suche maner of dis
posicion, hadde compassiō to se her, then
Lereano that was dede what with the
syght of the one, and of the other, was
in suche perell, and so desperate, that to
say the truth, I desyred rather to haue
folowed Lereano dede, then to haue fo
lowyd Laureola luyng, who with
greate heuynes, asmoche as she myght,
dyssembled her payne that she enduryd
for the deth of Lereano, & discretly she
dyd refrayne her weppynge and sayd to
me as folowith.

L Laureola to the auctor,
Rende truely with a better harte
and wyl I wyl contynue this
D.v. lyfe

lyfe rather thenne to goo oute of thy
chamber without it were. that I beleue
in my goynge away, my sowle shall de-
parte, for surly, yf I had beleued to haue
sene Lereano i that case, as I haue sene
hym now I wolde neuer haue come hi-
ther to se hym, but rather haue suffered
payne with his absence, then glozy to se
hym seinge I can not remedy hym, I
had thought neuer to haue had suche
payne for hym, for the moze that the
greatnes of astate withstode & denyed
yet for all that, I thought to haue done
the contrary, or my lyfe had departed,
for with great trauayll, I thought to
haue sayd to the kynig my father for his
libertie it was not by my consent, that
he was comaundyd, not to come in to
y^e courte, where as he myght haue place
to haue sene me, yet for al y^e he neded not
to haue dyed for the tyme myght haue
come y^e he shulde haue hadde no cause
to haue dysparyd, for thought I by my
crueltie had consentyd to haue put hym
to

to passion, yet I myght aswell agayne
haue rewarded hym by my bountie and
pitie, as to haue denyed hym, I wpll as
now make no quatell to my wpll, syn
his seruyce & good warkes I thought
to haue rewardyd, but I quatell with
the bantie that god hath gyuen me, and
so myght Lereano haue done: for that
more begyled hym, then other condicio
o: wpll: But bycause the tyme is short
and the passion great, I wpll no more
say but I make the sure, that thought
Lereano were not worthy of astate no:
lynage, to haue had me to his wyfe. yet
he shuld not haue bene in dispayre ther
of, but syn I can not as now rewarde
his warkes and good seruyce, I desyre
the not to depart fro the courte, though
thy desyre be in to thyne owne natural
countrey, & so doinge thou shalt know,
by the rewardes that I shal gyue the,
what honour I bare to Lereano lyuing

The aucto:

When

When Laureola had endyd her woꝝ-
des she was so heuy, and so full of
weppng, & in a maner hre paynesful
lyfe greuyde me as soze, as the dethe of
Aereano. And to all this that she hadde
sayd I wolde haue aunswerde her, and
thankyd her of her great bountie to me
shewyd, aswell as for the curtesye of
her meke speche. And so me thought as
I was mouyd sodely with a great sighe
she depertyde fro me, and with a loude
voyce sayd: I can no moze sorow & deth
which is euer certeyne, then the losse of
the lyfe of hym that is dede: the I lokyd
all aboute, and saw how I was left all
alone, and therwith awoke out of my
dreme, then was I so sorowfull, that I
wist not what to do, nor thynke of my
dreme, and when I saw no man to speke
vnto, I was so pelyue that ofte tymes
with myne owne handes I thought to
haue ryde my lyfe, therby thynkyng to
haue founde that I had lost, and when
I remembryd that with my deth I could
not

not recouer the lyfe of the dede, then I
thought it a great errour to lese myne
own soule wout the ioyeng of his body
And as it is a sure repericce that musyk
encreasith payne to hym þe is in sorow,
so lyke wyse it encreasith pleasur in the
harte of them that be contente and in
ioye, then I toke an harpe and songe as
folowith. Harte take no payne in this
lyfe for it may be ouercome, for it canne
not endure longe bicause we be mortall
the euyl that shewith her force, is redy
to take the deth, synne that lyfe is most
euyl, the I coulsayl the shew no strength
against þe ouercome, for who that sleith
the lyfe, with deth is pleasyd, therfore
that lyfe is good, that takith deth after
the best sorte, he that dyeth lyuyng hath
not moche to suffre, but he that lyueth
dyenge his euyl & payne is stronge,
who can not suffre euyl, when they be
satisfyed with euyl, and though they
be mortall, yet the sorow is equall, thus
I make an ende of my songe, and then
with

without any more studyng that I had
to do. I commaunded to sadell my horse
for I thought it was tyme for me to
deperte to go in to my owne country,
And thus I departed fro them that I
mette in the streete more acompanied w
sorow and wepyng yea then with any
other consolacion of pleasoure my he-
uynes so encreased, and my helth so pay-
red that I neuer thought to come a lyue
in to my countrey, & when I was well
entered on my way there came so many
thynges to my fantasye, that thynkyng
on them I was nere oute of my witte,
howbeit at last remembryng my selfe
that it was no profyt to muse on them
I traueled my self asmoche as I myght
to byngne them out of my remembrance
So I traueled my body in this yourney
and my soule in sundry thoughtes, and
fynally I arryued at my owne poore
mansion, and thus I bydde fare well &
adew all true louers. And all ye readers
an hcrers of this proces, desyryng them
where

where they fynd faulte to amend it. and
I shall pray to god for theyr prosperyte
and at theyr ende to send them the ioyes
of paradyce. Amen.

Finis.

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